



MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2023

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council

THRU: Chris Brown, Public Works Director
Susan Norton, Chief of Staff

FROM: Matt Mihalevich, Active Transportation Manager

DATE:

SUBJECT: **Approval of a contract with Crafton, Tull & Associates, Inc. for design of the Drake Street Connection Trail.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of a contract in the amount of \$204,275.00 with Crafton, Tull & Associates, Inc. per RFQ 23-01, selection #6 to provide professional services for the design of the Drake Street Trail Connection and approval of \$25,000.00 in contingency and a budget adjustment.

BACKGROUND:

The Drake Street Trail Connection will use excess space in the 4-lane section of Drake Street to install a two-way protected trail from College Ave. west to the end where a trail will be constructed to extend to Gordon Long Park and connect to the Razorback Regional Greenway. The proposed trail will total 4,376 linear feet and connect the neighborhoods east of Scull Creek to Gordon Long Park and the Razorback Regional Greenway.

The section of Drake Street from College Ave. to Quail Creek Dr. was constructed as a four-lane minor arterial roadway in the 1990's adjacent to The Links Apartments. This street has a dead end at the west end and there are no plans to extend Drake Street in the near future, so the existing right of way is available for a trail connection extending to Gordon Long Park. The street has a very low traffic volume because it is not a through street, but it encourages short bursts of high-speed travel due to the very wide street cross section and large turning radii.

The concept for the project will reduce Drake Street from four vehicle lanes to two vehicle lanes and include a 9-foot-wide by 3,204 Linear foot long trail on existing pavement. The conversion of the northern most traffic lane to a trail will reduce the street cross section to 2 through lanes with either a continuous turn lane in the center or parallel parking on the south side. The final cross section is still to be determined based on public input. The trail users will be separated from vehicles by installing a 6-inch-tall by 2-foot-wide concrete median with reflective posts on top as needed to delineate the lanes. Intersections will have reflective crosswalk markings on the pavement and signage for motorists and trail users. The trail in the street will transition to a 10-foot-wide trail at the west terminus of Drake Street and extend through undeveloped right of way to Gordon Long Park. This concrete trail will be 1,272 feet long and will include an estimated 50-foot bridge spanning Scull Creek.

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The section of the Razorback Regional Greenway through Gordon Long Park currently sees an average of 600 users per day. The trail in this location closely follows Scull Creek and the topography east of the creek naturally restricts access to the neighborhoods on the east side of the trail. The City ran a model that identified all residences and businesses within ½ mile of this project and found that there were 1,958 residential units, 266 businesses and 3,852 employees in this immediate area north, east and south of Drake Street. There are a significant number of potential trail and parkland users that are currently cut off from these amenities due to challenging topography and poor connectivity.

This project will serve people of all demographics, including many who may not have access to a vehicle and depend on other modes of transportation. We expect this connection will become an important active transportation connection with the many employment destinations along College Ave., dense neighborhoods and apartments along Drake Street and the direct connection to the Razorback Regional Greenway.

In June of 2023, a letter was sent to all property owners that are adjacent to the proposed trail and a survey was provided on speak up Fayetteville with 236 participants. 90% of the respondents expressed support for the project. Additional public input will be solicited as the design develops.

In August of 2023, the City of Fayetteville was awarded \$500,000 in federal-aid funds through the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission Transportation Alternatives Program for construction of the Drake Street Trail Connection.

DISCUSSION:

On September 11th, Crafton, Tull & Associates, Inc. was selected by committee based on RFQ 23-01, selection #6. Staff worked with Crafton, Tull & Associates, Inc. to prepare a detailed scope of work and contract for this project. They have provided a proposed scope and fee in the amount of \$204,275.00 for the design of this project.

Services to be provided include:

Design services will include the design of approximately 1,092 linear feet of 10-foot-wide concrete trail and approximately 3,300 linear feet of protected bike lane and restriping of Drake Street. The work will include the design of a 12-foot-wide trail bridge over Scull Creek at Gordon Long Park. The design firm will provide detailed flood analyses to determine the most feasible location for the bridge within city-owned property. The bridge design should use the flood study to evaluate a variety of bridge types with a goal of minimizing the overall bridge length while providing no-rise to Scull Creek. The work will also include sizing of pipes and a culvert for the trail crossing a tributary to Scull Creek on the east side of Gordon Long Park.

The design consultant will provide topographic and boundary surveys, pipe sizing, hydraulic studies including no-rise certification for the bridge over Scull Creek, corps of engineers permitting, trail and bridge design, bid ready construction plans and specifications, bidding services, construction engineering, and inspection services.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

The design for this project will be paid for with funds from the 2022 Trails Bond Funds.

ATTACHMENTS: SRF (#3), BA (#4), 2023-1204 Drake Street Trail Conn Crafton Tull Packet (#5), CTA Proposal - Drake Street Trail Connection (#6)

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