



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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Memorandum

TO: Administration and Finance Committee &
Board of Public Works

FROM: Michael Lewis, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

DATE: October 31, 2011

RE: **Communication from Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Discussing Funding Options for the Cross-Town Bike Trail.**

At the last Board meeting, we discussed the status of the Bike Trail. Regarding schedule, we need an approved agreement with WE Energies to use their right-of-way (item on tonight's agenda). With that agreement, we will petition the Railroad Commissioner to order the Union Pacific (U-P) to allow an at-grade crossing. U-P has claimed that they will fight that. If the City wins and the bike trail is built, there will be continuing maintenance costs with the bike trail, mainly cutting the grass.

When the bike trail was originally proposed, the City was planning on using CDBG or other funds through John Stibal's department. Through no fault of John, that money has dried up. Therefore, Paul Ziehler and I want to review options for funding and get a consensus. Using that direction, we will draft a resolution so the railroad can't claim that our petition is a waste of time since we don't even know where the money is coming from. Of course, assuming some sort of borrowing, the money will be obtained only after the project is approved.

The estimated cost of the bike trail is \$1,534,000 with the City's share at 20% or \$308,000. The bridge over STH 100 adds another \$1,100,000 with the City's share at 20% or \$220,000. The City's share for the complete project comes to about \$528,000. Our best guess at yearly maintenance is \$3-5,000 per year for grass cutting (3 mowing a year).

Cc: Dan Devine, Mayor
Paul Ziehler, CAO