


January 30, 2020

TO: Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe & Decatur City Council Members

FROM: Scot Wrighton, City Manager 

RE: City-State Agreement & Resolution for Planning Hike/Bike Off-Road Trail System

Last summer the city was informed that it had received a \$60,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to fund a planning project that would produce a multi-year approach to connecting existing off-road non-motorized trails in and near Decatur, connect key destinations, bring a non-motorized corridor to more neighborhoods that need alternative transportation options, and enhance quality of life. Due to a series of IDOT administrative delays since then, the city of Decatur has only now received the city-state agreement for this project. We are not authorized to expend funds until the city-state agreement is approved.

Approval of the city-state agreement (and the attached resolution) is highly recommended. The work product from this planning exercise will support the city's neighborhood revitalization efforts (council objective #1), it is directly related to the city's efforts to create a new street scape on North Highway 51 between Eldorado and Pershing, it advances the city's goals for joining and enhancing open spaces (council objective #6), and it is compatible with some previous planning efforts undertaken with the Park District. It is anticipated that this funding will be joined with funds included in the DUATS budget for the same purpose, and with the city of Decatur's local match requirement of \$15,000 (which has already been included in the approved FY2020 budget).

This project will not result in detailed design drawings, or construction. It is only a planning grant. The final product of this planning project will be a map showing recommended routes and destinations, likely non-motorized feeder routes, sample hike-bike trail cross sections that can be incorporated into subsequent infrastructure contracts, supporting documentation from citizen engagement sessions and other recommendations for how Decatur can eventually create a more complete network of off-road hike-bike trails serving more of the community.