

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donna Barron, City Manager

FROM: Claire Powell, Assistant City Manager

DATE: August 8, 2021

SUBJECT: **Approval of the Reimbursement Agreement By and Between the City of Lewisville and the Denton County Transportation Authority to Reimburse the City for Design Costs Related to the DCTA Rail Trail Extension to Lewisville's Southern Border; Approval of a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$400,000 to the Grant Fund; and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Agreement.**

BACKGROUND

The Denton County Transportation Authority ("DCTA") funded a new grant program named the DCTA Transportation Reinvestment Program (TRiP). Under this program, the agency funds local qualifying mobility projects in the DCTA member cities on a reimbursable basis. No city match is required. In the 2020-2021 call for projects, the City of Lewisville submitted the design of the DCTA Rail Trail Southern Extension for DCTA's consideration and was awarded the full \$400,000 towards the project. This reimbursement agreement formalizes the administration of that grant and provides for reimbursement. Staff also is requesting that the City Council approve the related supplemental appropriation of \$400,000 to the Grants Fund.

ANALYSIS

The DCTA A-train Rail Trail runs alongside DCTA's commuter rail line. The 19-mile trail connects existing transit facilities with key destinations within Denton, Lewisville, Highland Village, and other surrounding communities. The City of Lewisville previously was awarded TRiP funding to convert the only portion of the existing Rail Trail that is on-street to an off-street trail that would be built alongside the new Valley Ridge Boulevard extension. This trail is currently under construction.

In 2018, the City of Lewisville began working with the North Texas Council of Governments (NTCOG), DCTA, the City of Carrollton, and the City of Coppell to plan for a future trail network connecting all three cities. The plan would extend the existing DCTA Rail Trail, which terminates at Hebron Station eventually to Carrollton's Frankford Station and also into Coppell. The trail alignment is as shown in the attached Overall Project Map. This trail extension is part of the Regional Veloweb in the North Central Texas Council of Government's Mobility 2045 Plan.

In the upcoming years, each city would be responsible for the design and construction of their portion of the trail network where it traverses within their respective city boundaries. Specifically, the City of Lewisville would be responsible for Trail A, Trail D2 and Trail E1. The City of Lewisville will be the first of the cities to start design and construction on one of the city's trail segments, specifically Trail A, which is a 12-foot wide multi-use path of 0.74 miles in length extending to the City of Lewisville's southern boundary.

The City of Lewisville can do this by leveraging NTCOG grant funding and DCTA TRiP funding. In 2021, the City was awarded a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) grant from the NTCOG to construct Trail A. The NTCOG grant, however, does not pay for design of the trail. The City, therefore, applied for and was awarded DCTA TRiP funding to cover design costs. Under the Reimbursement Agreement, DCTA will reimburse the City quarterly for actual costs up to \$400,000. City Staff is now working with Halff and Associates to execute a professional services agreement to design Trail A. Halff is the firm that has been working with all stakeholders to develop the alignment set forth in the Overall Project Map. Staff anticipates that the design will be completed by 2024 and construction can start in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the City Staff's recommendation that the City Council approve the Reimbursement Agreement and related supplemental appropriation as set forth in the caption above, and authorize the City Manager to execute such agreement.