

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Claire Powell, City Manager

**FROM:** Stacie Anaya, Parks and Recreation Director

**DATE:** August 30, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of the Agreement for Award of Transportation Development Credits Between the Regional Transportation Council and the City of Lewisville; and Authorization for the City Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute the Agreement.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Denton County Transit Authority (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. Completion of the A-Train Rail Trail has been a key goal of various comprehensive and transportation plans throughout the years.

In 2018, the City began working with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), DCTA, Denton and Dallas Counties, the City of Carrollton, and the City of Coppell to plan trail network connecting all three cities. This trail extension is part of the Regional Veloweb in the NCTCOG Mobility 2045 Plan. The project plan developed through this partnership addresses the extension of the existing DCTA Rail Trail, which terminates at Hebron Station to Carrollton's Frankford Station and to meet Coppell's Denton Creek Trail. 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 extending to Lewisville's southern boundary.

In early 2021, the City's project for Trail Segment A was selected to receive a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQI) grant from the NCTCOG in the amount of \$2,400,000 for construction funding. The City Council approved TxDOT Advanced Funding Agreement associated with the CMAQI grant on April 17, 2023. On April 8, 2021, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) awarded 480,000 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to serve as the 20% match required for the grant. The City Council approved an agreement with the RTC for the TDC award on September 13, 2021.

The City also leveraged the DCTA Transportation Reinvestment Program (TRiP) grant program to fund the design of the trail. The TRiP program funds local qualifying mobility projects in the DCTA member cities on a reimbursable basis. The initial TRiP award for the project was \$400,000 for design. Building on the work done for development of the concept plan for the trail network, the City contracted with Halff Associates to design Trail Segment A.

Design of the trail has been more challenging than originally anticipated because of easements that will be required from the Dallas Area Regional Transit (DART) and the realignment of the Carrollton's portion of the trail. DART's process for obtaining easements will require additional effort by Halfp has added time to the design schedule. Carrollton's realignment of their portion of the trail is due to a recent approval of a bond for TC Rice Nature Park. The new alignment will preserve more trees and provide a better experience for park and trail users. Originally a .75-mile trail project, the new alignment will require the Lewisville trail to be .286 miles longer than anticipated, which will increase the cost of design and construction. To cover the additional cost, staff requested additional TRiP funds from DCTA and TDCs from the RTC to support the project. The City Council approved a reimbursement agreement with DCTA for an additional \$600,000 in TRiP funds on September 11, 2023.

### **ANALYSIS**

In July 2023, the RTC awarded an additional 121,600 TDCs for the DCTA A-Train Rail Trail Extension South to Carrollton, bringing the total number of TDCs for the project to 601,600. The proposed agreement will make it possible for the City to use TDCs to offset the increased cost of the project. The RTC issues agreements based on their fiscal year. As a result, the agreement for the additional TDCs will be handled as a stand-alone agreement rather than an amendment to the agreement executed in September 2021.

No additional CMAQI funding is associated with the agreement, however, the additional TDCs will require the AFA with TXDOT for the CMAQI funds to be amended. A future City Council Agenda item for this amendment will be brought for consideration in October 2023.

### **CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council approve the agreement and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to execute the agreement as set forth in the caption above.