



INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Gary D. Greer
City Manager

DATE: September 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Citywide Trail Master Plan

In October 2014 the City Council approved Resolution No. 2014-091 authorizing an agreement with Dunaway Associates, LP for professional services associated with the preparation of a Citywide Trail Master Plan (The Plan) for Farmers Branch. The objectives of the Plan will help link neighborhoods, schools, parks, businesses, DART and other significant destination points within the City and to surrounding communities. The Plan will be a strategic tool that City officials can utilize to guide the funding and partnerships necessary to implement the trail network.

A coordinated planned bicycle and pedestrian trail system within the City will further benefit the City's residents with mobility choices and opportunities for outdoor exercise and recreation. Farmers Branch currently has several trail connections in the heart of the City, but is eager to implement a Trail Master Plan that provides connectivity for all of Farmers Branch.

Dunaway Associates implemented a three-phase approach in the planning process; analysis, planning and recommendations. Phase one includes data gathering and inventory, a site review of existing conditions, identifying opportunities and constraints, and a benchmark tour of other cities with conditions similar to Farmers Branch. Phase two creates the Conceptual Trail network plan, discusses the Plan during a public input meeting and evaluates the North Central Texas Council of Governments data for traffic impacts in the area. Phase three creates the Preliminary Trail Master Plan and design standards and offers recommendations for the final Plan for City Council approval and adoption.

Throughout the planning process the consultant worked closely with City Administration and the Trail Advisory Committee. Comments solicited from a variety of sources with interest in design

and implementation included representatives from Dallas County, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and public agencies that are planning and implementing trail systems throughout the North Texas region. Public comments were solicited through public input and Board meetings, the City's website and various electronic media sources.

The Plan outlines a well-conceived hierarchy of trail connections throughout Farmers Branch. The Plan connects key destinations within the City, spurs neighborhood revitalization with better connectivity and creates a realistic implementation Plan that can strategically obtain grant funding. The trail system offers diversity in transportation options other than a car.

The Plan is flexible and should adapt to growth and change in the City. The adoption of the City of Farmers Branch Citywide Trail Master Plan does not commit the City to specific amounts of funding levels or implementation strategies, but provides guidance to the City Council for future consideration to develop or expand the trail network system for bicycle, pedestrian and other non-motorized forms of transportation that offers safe, easy access and connectivity.

During the Parks and Recreation Board meeting on August 6, 2015 a motion was made and carried unanimously to recommend that City Council adopt the Citywide Trail Master Plan as presented.

This item supports one of the City's guiding principles in the Strategic Plan to provide beautifully maintained environments, parks, rights-of-way, and green space and a wide variety of quality recreational and entertainment opportunities for all ages.

Possible Council Action:

1. I move to approve Resolution No. 2015-072 adopting a Citywide Trail Master Plan.
2. I move to approve Resolution No. 2015-072 adopting a Citywide Trail Master Plan, with modifications.
3. I move to table the item for further study or take no action.