

# Department of Public Works

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John C. Rooney, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer

Thomas M. Eeg, P.E.  
Asst. Comm. of Public Works/Operations

March 3, 2020

Legistar Item: 0158-20

To: Alderman John Tate II, Chairman  
Public Works and Services Committee

From: John Rooney, P.E. *JCR*  
Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer

Re: WisDOT Tap Grant for West Bluff Overlook Project

This communication is seeking a resolution of support for a WisDOT TAP Grant. WisDOT has provided funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This program is for the 2020-24 funding cycle and funds these types of projects with an 80% grant and 20% required local match. On January 24, 2020, the City Engineers office submitted an application for the West Bluff Overlook project to WisDOT.

The project team, led by former City Development Director Amy Connolly, reviewed four alternatives and settled on "Restored Edges" concept. The project consists of a proposed 10-foot wide multi-use path constructed between Mound Avenue and the Root River. The project includes interactive outdoor spaces, overlooks to the river, and is part of the 2019 City of Racine Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Located between the Jens Jensen-designed park system to the west, and Downtown and Harbor to the east, the West Bluff – Restored Edges project is the missing link to unite a citywide off-street bicycle and pedestrian path. This and numerous other project elements are part of the larger RootWorks Redevelopment Plan adopted by the City of Racine in 2012 to address persistent blight and underutilization of the downtown's 325-acre historic industrial core. The project envisions redeveloping the properties along Mound Avenue as a Jensen-inspired 3.26-acre public park. The 10' wide asphalt path will meet Federal Highway Administration design standards. Natural materials are encouraged whenever possible to maintain the connection to the Root River Pathway to the west. The grant will also fund new outdoor spaces adjacent to the pathway, a respite for cyclists and pedestrians with its own interpretive features and scenic views of the river.

The cost estimate for the project is \$2,109,000 and includes an allowance for miscellaneous and contingencies, construction inspection and oversight. The 20% City match would be \$421,800 and would be budgeted for in the 2021-2030 Capital Improvement Program if awarded. As part of the application requirements, a resolution of support from the Common Council is required by April 17, 2020. If the committee agrees, the appropriate action would be to recommend the City Attorney prepare a resolution for the Common Council's approval.