

City of Bethel Action Memorandum

Action memorandum No.	XXXXXX 17-07
Date action introduced:	January 10, 2017
Introduced by:	Peter Williams, Acting City Mgr.
Date action taken:	January 10, 2017 <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denied
Confirmed by:	LS

Action Title

Authorize the City Manager to sign the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program FY 2013-2016 grant agreement to accept grant funds to construct a gravel trail.

Route to:	Department/Individual:	Initials:	Remarks:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administration	PAW	need decision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	SA	recommend approval.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Works	VJ	Recommend approval
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Attachment(s): MOA; Operation & Maintenance Plan; map.

Amount of fiscal impact:		Account information:
X	No fiscal impact	\$319,999 in grant funding
	Funds are budgeted for.	
Add to FY 2018 Budget	Funds are not budgeted. Budget modification is required.	\$1,626/yr. maintenance

Summary Statement

The Small Federal Programs administrator with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities must have a scope and grant acceptance decision about the City of Bethel's trail by January 11, 2017. The environmental clearance division of DOT&PF needs to know the scope so that it can obtain NEPA-related agency clearances, which is expected to take 30-90 days once initiated. The Department will not undertake the NEPA clearance work, if the City does not intend to accept the grant.

City Administration considered various trail paths, land ownership issues, and trail construction materials and recommends that City Council accept and approve the ATAP Trail Grant as originally presented in the City's application.

The City of Bethel worked closely with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation's Primary Care Center Project Manager to plan and design a pedestrian and bicycle trail that would run from the hospital door to the north side of YKHC property and then across the tundra to City Subdivision. The trail would be an on-ground fabric, sand, and gravel trail with no pilings and limited use of wood. There is a wooden boardwalk section designed to go up and over the waste heat pipe about half way between the hospital and Akiachak Street. There may be other pipe crossing ramps necessary (e.g., over the Institutional Corridor water pipe).

The original trail was to go from the hospital to the snow machine ramp approaching Akiachak Street, north of the KUC campus. This option puts the trail on YKHC and City property, easing the survey area requirements and creation of easements.

The KUC Executive Director is amenable to the trail coming out behind Sackett Hall, onto the driveway. This option puts the trail on YKHC, City, and KUC-UAF property, requiring an additional MOA with KUC, and increasing the survey area and easement generation.

Acting City Manager Williams believes that the City should undertake a title search, land survey, and generate easements before the City signs the grant agreement. These tasks are expected to take two months. The City would pay these costs (\$3,000-\$5,000) outside of the grant and match funds. This process will help the City update its records and give the City one or more maps that clearly delineate where existing water, sewer, and waste heat pipes are located and where future pipes and trails might be located.

YKHC Project Management consultant Kent Crandall roughly estimated that the cost of a boardwalk trail would be \$500,000, a \$100,000 increase over the cost of a gravel trail. The grant and match will only cover the costs associated with a \$400,000 project.

In a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and YKHC, YKHC agreed to provide \$80,001 in cash match for the City to receive \$319,999 in grant funds. The MOA also states that the City will maintain the trail on its property for 25 years. See MOA.

The City of Bethel completed an operation and maintenance plan for the trail.

A map of the proposed trail is attached.