TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: March 16, 2010
RE: Update: Katy Place Trail Alternate Alignment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a report providing additional information concerning the alternate scenic alignment, on City-owned property, for the Katy Place Trail. Per Council request the new alignment has been flagged avoiding all mature trees. The original report presented at the February 1, 2010 council meeting is attached.

DISCUSSION:

The eight foot hard-surfaced trail alignment option connects from Forum Katy Parkway, near the Forum 8 movie theater, through City property to the MKT. By maximizing use of the old wagon trail, the upper ¼ mile of trail will be built with negligible disturbance. To meet slope requirements, the lower half had to diverge from the wagon trail. By routing this section through sapling areas (5” diameter and less) staff was able to avoid the many large mature trees in the area. The net loss of trees greater than 5” in diameter will include one 7” and five 6” semi-mature trees. Several large dead trees will also be removed. No large mature trees will be lost.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Adding the $295,000 for the alternate alignment to $187,000 of the original project brings the estimated total project costs (engineering and construction) to $482,000. This approach will eliminate acquisition costs and accelerate implementation.

The additional costs for this project would be offset by low bids received on Providence Bikeway South (Greenbriar to Rock Bridge). This project is funded with Non-Motorized Transportation funds.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

If Council concurs with the alternate alignment of the Katy Place Trail on city property, direct staff to move forward with the design of the alternative alignment.
TO:   City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: January 15, 2010
RE:   Katy Place Trail Alternate Alignment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a report concerning an alternate alignment, on City-owned property, for the Katy Place Trail. This alternate alignment would avoid the need to obtain public access easements across the Katy Place Apartment parking lot and access road.

DISCUSSION:

The Katy Place Trail is one of the MKT connector trail projects approved by Council on July 22, 2008. Previous plans for the trail showed a connection directly to Katy Place Apartments requiring the public to cross the apartment’s parking lot to access the trail. Staff is recommending an alternate alignment rather than using the Katy Place Apartment parking lot and north entrance road. Although the trail alignment on City property will be more expensive, it would reduce the liability to the City.

The eight foot hard-surfaced trail alignment option would connect to the MKT along the original alignment, then branching off onto City property to the terminus of Forum Katy Parkway near the Forum 8 movie theater (see attached diagram). While the additional trail connection is estimated to add $295,000 to the project costs, it will reduce City liability while providing a very scenic route through a City-owned wooded area. The trail would be designed to minimize disruption to the wooded area.

A portion of the original alignment would be retained: a 10’ wide hard surface improvement along the existing access road between the MKT and the edge of the apartment property. This is used by City maintenance vehicles and will provide pedestrian access to the apartments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Adding the $295,000 for the alternate alignment to $187,000 of the original project brings the estimated total project costs (engineering and construction) to $482,000. This approach will eliminate acquisition costs and accelerate implementation.

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SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

If Council concurs with the alternate alignment of the Katy Place Trail on city property, direct staff to move forward with the design of the alternative alignment.