



**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Dripping Springs**  
**PO Box 384**  
**511 Mercer Street**  
**Dripping Springs, TX 78620**

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**Submitted By:** Aaron Reed, Public Works Director; Chad Gilpin, City Engineer

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**Council Meeting Date:** May 16, 2023

**Agenda Item Wording:** **Discuss and consider approval of expenditure of funds for Roger Hanks Extension Shared Use Path Improvements and authorize staff to negotiate a reimbursement agreement for the expansion costs.**

**Agenda Item Requestor:**

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**Summary/Background:** The City of Dripping Springs (City) entered into an offsite road and trail agreement (Agreement) with Stratford Land Fund IV, L.P., (Developer) the developer of the Heritage Subdivision. The Agreement requires the Developer to construct a 5-foot sidewalk along one side of the Roger Hanks Extension from the Heritage Subdivision west to the high school and then south the tie-in point with the existing Roger Hanks Parkway.

For consideration staff is recommending that the 5-foot sidewalk required by the Agreement be upgraded to a shared use path. The shared use path will be typically 10-foot wide (2,325 lf) but will have a single section (775 lf) in the curve around the high school parking lot that is 8-foot wide due to grading and ROW constraints. See attached updated construction plan showing the limits of the 10-foot path and 8-foot path.

Due to ROW and grading constraints the upgrade to a shared use path will require approximately 404 linear feet of retaining wall ranging from 1-foot to 2-foot in height.

Cost for the improvement is \$169,999 and would be paid for by the City's sidewalk fee-in-lieu fund. See attached Contractor Change Order Cost.

If approved the Developer will execute a change order for the improvements with his construction contractor and the City will reimburse the developer from the City's sidewalk fee-in-lieu fund.

Sidewalk fee-in-lieu account currently has a balance of: \$171,496

## Benefits of Improvements

1. This improvement will extend the connectivity of the 10-foot shared that will start construction this year along the existing portion of Roger Hanks as part of the TxDOT Sidewalk Grant Program.
2. Improved pedestrian safety and connectivity through a school zone due to wider path
3. Improved bicycle safety and connectivity through a school zone by providing an alternative to bicycle travel in vehicular lanes
4. It is estimated that constructing these improvements by the Developer would save the City approximately 25% in improvement costs in comparison with a typical design, bid, build process conducted by the City.

### **Commission Recommendations:**

### **Recommended Council Actions:**

Staff recommends approval of the expenditure of sidewalk fee-in-lieu funds to upgrade the 5-foot sidewalk to a 10-foot and 8-foot shared use path.

### **Attachments:**

Offsite Road and Trail Agreement.

Contractor's Change Order Cost

Updated Construction Plan Showing Shared Use Path

### **Next Steps/Schedule:**

If approved Developer will execute Change Order with his contractor to build the Shared Use Path Improvements. Through a reimbursement agreement City will reimburse the Developer \$169,999 from the sidewalk fee-in-lieu fund.