
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Parks & Recreation Department

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Parks and Recreation Commission

February 6, 2020

Aubrey Davis Master Park Trail Safety Improvements

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Paul West, Capital Projects and Planning Manager

Date: January 30, 2020

Upon adoption of the Aubrey Davis Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission was directed by Council to develop a scope of work for the \$500K grant from the Department of Commerce (DOC) for safety improvements on the Mountains to Sound Trail (“MTS Trail”). At the January 8 Arts Council / Parks and Recreation Commission joint meeting, staff provided an overview to the Arts Council members and Parks and Recreation Commissioners regarding the three trail safety projects that were assigned top priority in the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan. The projects were:

1. **West Mercer Way Crossings**
2. **Intersections and Crossings**
3. **Restroom Conflict Zone**

At the February 6 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Commissioners will discuss scoping for safety improvements on the MTS Trail. Specifically the Parks and Recreation Commission will begin to define:

- the limits of the project area
- the objectives for safety and trail user experience that the project should consider, by location where applicable
- approaches that the commission would specifically include for, or exclude from consideration, if any.

Once the Parks and Recreation Commission defines a scope of work for the project, the scope will be presented to City Council for approval. Following approval of the recommended scope by City Council, staff will work with DOC to get the scope of work approved for the grant agreement. Staff will then work collaboratively with a consultant, WSDOT and the Commission to develop a schedule of trail improvements.

Some conditions and constraints of this project are:

- The grant from the Dept. of Commerce is approximately \$500k. It was appropriated by the Washington State legislature specifically for trail safety improvements on the MTS Trail. The City cannot execute a grant agreement and access the funds until we have an approved scope of work.
- Any project that involves WSDOT property must have the continuous involvement and final approval of WSDOT.
- WSDOT will require that trail engineering and design work conform to generally accepted transportation standards and practices.
- The Mountains to Sound Trail is almost entirely on WSDOT property.
- WSDOT staff will charge time to the project budget.
- Mercer Island City Council has asked the Commission and the City Manager to recommend a scope of work by the end of March.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff requests the following:

1. Discuss a scope of trail safety improvements
2. Discuss the agenda for final decision-making in March
3. Schedule a special meeting for Commissioners to walk potential project sites prior to March to develop an understanding of the project scope