



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

**Item 4
January 5, 2023
Regular Business**

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project 30% Design Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve recommendation memo to City Council and authorize the Chair to transmit it to City Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

STAFF:	Paul West, CIP Project Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roundabout Option 1 diagram 2. Roundabout Option 2 diagram 3. WSDOT memo on Two Roundabout Alternatives 4. Aubrey Davis Trails Safety Improvements 30% Plans 5. City Council Recommendation Memorandum (edited)

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

At its [September 1, 2022](#) meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) focused on its goal to send a 30% design recommendation to City Council. The PRC’s discussion led to several outcomes:

- The PRC’s proposed recommendation evolved from recommending a specific 30% design to recommending that the 30% design proceed to 60% design, with PRC review at the conclusion of that design phase.
- Outstanding design issues were enumerated for additional review in the 60% design phase.
- The revision of the draft recommendation memo was turned over to a subcommittee for drafting.

The PRC was scheduled to review the revised memo at the October 6, 2022 meeting. A few days before the meeting, the City received review comments from WSDOT staff that were substantially different than comments previously received, particularly in regard to the roundabout feature. Staff recommended to the PRC chair that the agenda item be tabled until these comments could be addressed.

Since October, the City and the design team have met with WSDOT representatives on two occasions. The first meeting explored the new comments and WSDOT’s implications for the roundabout. The design team took the input from the conversation and developed two options. Option 1 (see Exhibit 1) represented WSDOT’s suggestions for a roundabout that allowed for more space for the variety of trail users and treated the center island as a ramped feature. Option 2 (see Exhibit 2) was an adaptation of the design team’s previous product that incorporated WSDOT’s earlier review comments.

WSDOT has reviewed both options and met with the design team to discuss both options. Following the meeting, WSDOT stated its preference for Option 1 in a memo (Exhibit 3).

INCORPORATION OF WSDOT’S RECOMMENDATION

The Mountains to Sound Greenway (I-90) Trail in Aubrey Davis Park is owned by WSDOT. The City’s contractual responsibilities to WSDOT are limited to maintenance of the trail as part of the park landscape. WSDOT has agreed to collaborate on this project, but it reserves review and approval authority for any changes to the trail facility.

Staff recommends inclusion of Option 1 in the 30% design (Exhibit 4). The 14-foot circulating trail width allows for “mixing” of users within the area, including those moving in counter-rotation. The larger, raised center island controls speeds in the roundabout. The contrasting surfacing, while traversable, will be visually and texturally distinct from the trail. The roundabout will also provide recommended sight distances for approaching trail users.

Given previous concerns commissioners have raised about adding paving in the park, the design team prepared this comparison of the two options:

	Size of Paved Area	Percentage Increase From Existing	Percentage Difference from Option 2
Option 1: 44’ Roundabout	2669 square feet	+34%	+23%
Option 2: 34’ Roundabout	2169 square feet	+16%	0

The design team will be asked to consider where pavement area can be reduced elsewhere in the park to offset this increase.

MODIFYING THE PRC’S RECOMMENDATION MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Staff support PRC’s recommendation memo (Exhibit 5). The level of community interest in this project warrants additional stewardship by the PRC. However, the inclusion of Option 1 in the 30% design addresses some of the design issues the memo recommends for further consideration in 60% design. In effect, the roundabout design has already progressed toward the 60% product. Staff recommends striking one sentence as shown in Exhibit 5.

Staff also suggest that the PRC modify the project priority to “stay within the available budget.” Staff has proposed edits to this section in Exhibit 5. The PRC has made repeated efforts to keep the construction costs within the estimated available budget of \$350,000, however, the current direction of the design process has incurred, and will continue to incur, additional design costs for the following reasons:

- A nine-month extension to consultant contract (Design was budgeted to end in 2022.)
- Additional topographic survey for the roundabout design (The roundabout now occupies a larger area than was initially anticipated.)
- Additional WSDOT reviews and required “Basis of Design” documentation
- Additional PRC review and revisions in the 30% design stage
- Anticipated PRC and City Council review at the 60% stage
- Added scope for roundabout illumination design (\$18k, if needed)

Services not expected to be needed for structural engineering, geotechnical evaluation, and environmental assessments have been deducted from the consultant's scope of work. Taken together, these additional services are estimated to increase design costs by \$49,000.

It is anticipated that additional construction costs will be needed for the larger roundabout as well as illumination (if included) and a budget appropriation will be needed to offset the anticipated project shortfall. Staff will also investigate external funding opportunities to close the shortfall in the project budget, and will seek a Council appropriation from the Capital Improvement Fund as part of the construction contract award (anticipated in fall of 2023).

NEXT STEPS

Staff recommend that the PRC's transmittal memo be approved as edited or referred to the appointed subcommittee for finalization. Once the memo is approved by PRC, City staff will work with the chair to transmit the memo to the City Council. Staff then will work with the Design Team to develop the 60% design and return to the PRC in Q2 2023 for 60% design review. The project was originally scheduled to construct in the spring of 2023; however, that is now expected to begin in the fall 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the City Council Recommendation Memo as edited and authorize the chair to forward it to the City Council;

ALTERNATE ACTION

Authorize the memo subcommittee to finalize the recommendation memo and return it for PRC approval at the February 2023 PRC meeting.