



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Request to Approve Topic on the City Council Consent Agenda

From: Kim Warren, Parks and Recreation **Meeting Date:** August 9, 2022
Presenter: Kim Warren **Estimated Time:** Consent Agenda
Topic: Amendment to State/Local Agreement for Meridian Rail With Trail Pathway

Recommended Council Action:

In order to move forward on Meridian's Rail With Trail project, staff is requesting approval of an amendment to the original State/Local Agreement (2016). An amendment is needed due to changes in requirements since the original contract, and to officially start this new effort so the city can receive credit for project work that will count towards the required match.

Background:

In 2016, the City Entered into an Agreement with the state of Idaho to secure FHWA funding through the Idaho Transportation Investment Program for a Rail With Trail pathway in Meridian. This pathway (parallel to – not inside – the railroad easement) is proposed to run from 3rd Street to 8th Street, south of Broadway, west of City Hall.

Due to incomplete pathway right-of-way at the time of the funding award, funds could not be spent per the original time frame and were formally delayed until the remaining easement could be acquired. Now that the easement is on track for acquisition (estimated January of 2023) the agreement needs to be amended.

Amendments include:

- Appointing the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council as the contract administrator for the State. (A new requirement enacted after the original agreement was signed)
- A guarantee that any investments by the City for advance work on the project – centered on federal approvals and project design – may be counted towards the required match.

Staff needs to begin the design approval process as soon as possible to allow sufficient turnaround time for state and federal agencies and still meet the 2024 construction schedule.