



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Future of Dilapidated Railroad Depot

Preferred Agenda: May 10, 2022

Submitted By: Greg Springman, Public Works Director

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion ____ Roll Call X Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: N/A

Towards Council Goal: Goal 1.2: Infrastructure Needs

Attachments: Railroad Depot Ownership Transfer
Pictures documenting Railroad Depot condition

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to seek Council directive regarding the future of the dilapidated Railroad Depot stored at the Public Works Facility.

Background/Context:

The Railroad Depot was originally located at the site of the current McDonald's restaurant. When that restaurant was constructed, the depot was moved to a point adjacent to Bi-Mart's current location in the 2000 block of Main Street. Approximately 10 years ago, when Bi-Mart was being developed, several community members were granted approval by the City Council and the property owners to relocate the Railroad Depot onto the current Public Works Facility at 1400 24th Avenue.

In 2013, volunteers placed the Railroad Depot on large timbers to be utilized as "skids", then using heavy equipment, pulled the Depot on the skids along the railroad right-of-way to the northern end of the Public Works Facility.

There is an immediate need for Public Works' staff to relocate the Railroad Depot from its current location. The Railroad Depot currently sits on the access road which will service Linn County's proposed RV Fill/Dump station and FAC's proposed outreach and service center adjacent to the Public Works Facility. Public Works has been tasked with constructing an access road, pedestrian paths and underground utilities.

The Railroad Depot structure is currently exposed to wet conditions and is in a significantly dilapidated state. On May 2, 2022, Public Works Staff attempted to pull the structure on its skids off of the access easement area but were unsuccessful. Due to severe rot of the timbers and sub structure of the Railroad Depot, Staff determined that significant damage would occur if they continued.

To relocate the Railroad Depot, the structure would need to be lifted and secured so that new timber skids could be placed underneath, then set onto the new timbers and dragged out of the way. Building relocation services would be a significant cost to the City—there are currently no funds allocated to this work.

The Challenge/Problem:

Due to its dilapidated condition, Public Works staff cannot relocate the Railroad Depot from its current location without risking damage to the structure. Staff must relocate the Railroad Depot prior to constructing the proposed access road for Linn County RV Dump Station and FAC's Outreach and Service Center.

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home City Council – The Council is responsible for will determining the future of public property, including the Railroad Depot.
- Sweet Home Residents – Residents have a historic connection to the Railroad Depot.
- Sweet Home Staff – Staff need clear direction from the City Council on how to proceed.
- Linn County – Linn County has a right to access its property, the proposed RV Dump Station, via an easement on which the Railroad Depot sits.
- FAC – FAC has a right to access its property via the same easement.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The Railroad Depot structure would need to be lifted and secured so that new timber skids could be placed underneath, then set onto the new timbers and dragged out of the way. Building relocation services would be a significant cost to the City with no funds currently allocated to this project.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

FAC's Community Outreach and Service Center has been an ongoing concern to the Sweet Home Community and City Council. Relocating the Railroad Depot from its current location would allow for timely constructure on the access road servicing Linn County's RV Dump Station and FAC's Center.

Options:

1. Option 1 – Do Nothing. Not recommended. This would impede development of both FAC's site and Linn County's proposed facility.
2. Option 2 – Construct new "Skids" underneath the Railroad Depot at a significant cost. There may be a viable usage for the Railroad Depot.
3. Option 3 – Seek more information before deciding. Determine if there are community members who would take possession of the Railroad Depot and relocate it.
4. Option 4 - Demolition. With approval from the City Council, Public Works staff would demolish the Railroad Depot structure.

Recommendation:

1. Staff recommends Options 2, 3 or 4.