



BUILDING, SAFETY & ZONING DEPARTMENT

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TO: Plan Commission
DATE: April 10, 2023
SUBJECT: Snowmobile Bridge

Jefferson County Parks Department requested to place a snowmobile bridge on City owned airport property. Parcel PIN: 291-0815-1622-001

SITE DETAILS:

Acres: 57.75
Current Zoning: Planned Industrial
Existing Land Use: Airport
Future Land Use Designation: Airport

BACKGROUND & APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

The applicant is proposing to place a snowmobile bridge over an unnamed navigable stream in the southwest corner of the airport property near the intersection of Air Park Dr and Business Highway 26.

STAFF EVALUATION:

The proposed snowmobile bridge is funded through the Wisconsin DNR Snowmobile Grant Program. The 38ft x 12ft bridge is a free-floating design that rests on galvanized footing pans with no piers or abutments. The extra bridge length is to accommodate the footing pans and keep the footing pans away from the stream banks to prevent erosion. A bridge agreement between Jefferson County, the Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance, the Watertown Snowmobile Alliance, and the City of Watertown has been drafted and is included in the packet. The agreement states that Jefferson County is the sole owner of the bridge, is responsible for all maintenance of the bridge, and indemnifies the City of Watertown against any liability regarding the bridge. The proposed snowmobile bridge will be located in the same location as the previous bridge. The proposed bridge is not located within the mapped floodplain or wetlands.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation - Bureau of Aeronautics considers the bridge a direct replacement of the previous bridge and considers the bridge advantageous to the airport in providing access to the perimeter fence. The Bureau of Aeronautics has indicated that prior to any bridge construction activity the applicant should file the appropriate forms with the FAA's Obstruction Evaluation System. The Airport Operations Manager has no concerns over the bridge.

OPTIONS:

The following are possible options for the Plan Commission:

1. Provide a negative recommendation to the Common Council regarding the placement of the bridge and the drafted bridge agreement.
2. Provide a positive recommendation to the Common Council regarding the placement of the bridge and the drafted bridge agreement.

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Opportunity Runs Through It

3. Provide a positive recommendation to the Common Council regarding the placement of the bridge and the drafted bridge agreement, with conditions identified by the Plan Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Application materials