

Polk County - Mark C. Ackelson Trail Phase 3

<i>Sponsor</i>	Polk County
<i>Project Title</i>	Mark C. Ackelson Trail Phase 3
<i>Termini Description (i.e. Park Avenue to 19th Street)</i>	several Evergreen to Payton - Easter Lake to Ewing Park
<i>Total Estimated Project Cost</i>	\$2,125,000
<i>Federal Fiscal Year 2019 TAP Request</i>	\$300,000
<i>Total Funding Secured</i>	\$1,663,000
<i>Source of additional funds and local match?</i>	Multiple consolidated MPO grants totaling \$773,000 FFY 2016 Polk County Water and Land Legacy Bond Funds \$890,000 2017
<i>Is this project seeking funding over multiple years?</i>	No
<i>Has your agency previously applied for TAP funds for this project?</i>	Yes
<i>Has this project previously been awarded TAP funds?</i>	Yes
<i>What category is this application applying under?</i>	Trail/Shared-Use Path
<i>Width of proposed trail?</i>	12'
<i>Pavement material</i>	Concrete
<i>Pavement material depth in inches?</i>	6 inches
<i>Sub-base material</i>	Compacted sub-base
<i>Sub-base depth in inches?</i>	12" compacted to 95% of standard proctor
<i>Project length in miles?</i>	2.25 miles
<i>Is the segment located on an identified trail gap in the LRTP?</i>	Yes
<i>Describe the local support for the project.</i>	There have been multiple public meetings and development of master plans for both Ewing and Easter Lake Parks. Multiuse trails and neighborhood connections were the most requested amenity. Public comment at all open meetings have listed this trail system as their top priority, following improved water quality.
<i>Describe the multipurpose aspects of the project.</i>	This project is part of the larger trail system that will connect two major parks, existing bike lanes and neighborhoods in the surrounding community. It also is one of the gaps in the SE Metro trail system. It will offer recreational and leisure opportunities as well as a safe off-street transportation alternative to cycle use on narrow formerly rural roads surrounding the parks.
<i>Describe the project's financial plan.</i>	Polk County Conservation (PCC) has been modestly successful in receiving grant funding for the larger project as well as Phase 3 of the Ackelson Trail. PCC has dedicated \$890,000 of the future bond funding available to us toward Phase 3. We are dedicated to finishing the entire trail project and will continue to seek additional trail funding from all grant sources. We are committed to the construction of this trail segment during the renovation process occurring as part of the Easter Lake Watershed project.
<i>Describe the maintenance plans for this project.</i>	PCC has the most comprehensive trail maintenance program in the Metro which includes frequent inspections of trail surfacing, drainage infrastructure, and bridges. We manage nearly 50 miles of completed trail as well as any public land organization. We will maintain this trail to the highest safety and repair standards.

<p><i>Describe the quality/significance of the site.</i></p>	<p>This Phase of the Ackelson Trail is located in both Ewing Park (City of Des Moines) and Easter Lake Park (PCC). These two parks along the route of the trail contain woodlands, wetlands, mowed park landscapes, playgrounds, picnic areas, and access to the lake, which is the subject of a larger 15-18 million dollar renovation.</p>
<p><i>Please describe the need for the project.</i></p>	<p>Completion of this three part trail will connect two of the regions most significant parks to each other and the surrounding community. It also fills a portion of the gap in the trail connection between Des Moines, and Carlisle/Summerset Trail to the Southeast. The MPO's Bicycle and Facilities Map recognises this project as a significant component of the Central Iowa Trail Network. This keystone project is crucial to the development of the future trail system leading south and east of the Metro. Phase 3 will provide a link between The Indianola bike lanes to the west and the new Easter Lake Spine Trail constructed by the City of Des Moines in the residential area south of the parks.</p>
<p><i>Describe the relationship to other regional plans/projects.</i></p>	<p>As previously mentioned ,this is a recognised MPO trail gap. The project area is shown on CONNECT's regional planned and existing facilities map and meets multiple goals and objectives of the Connect plan, most importantly completing significant trails and providing multi-modal transportation alternatives. This project fulfils many of the Tomorrow Plans' objectives e.g improving environmental health through access to the outdoors, health and well being of residents, resilient neighborhoods, regional cooperation, etc.</p>
<p><i>If applicable, please describe the status of the facility right-of-way.</i></p>	<p>All land within all phases of this trail are held fee title by Polk County or the City of Des Moines and are permanantly protected.</p>
<p><i>Explain any urgency with the implementation of the project.</i></p>	<p>The City of Des Moines recently completed the bike lanes along Indianola Ave. PCC has completed Phase 1 of the trail and Phase 2 is nearly complete. Phase 3 is not fully funded and as the restoration of the larger Easter Lake Watershed project moves forward there is a specific time frame when the lake is drained for in-lake and shoreline rehabilitation, new WRA sewer constructed and the lake has been dredged when Phase 3 construction needs to occur. Failure to have adequate funding in place will cause significant delay in the completion of the Ackelson Trail.</p>
<p><i>Describe the impact to regional economic development and tourism.</i></p>	<p>Iowa ranks as one of the top ten states in total miles of multipurpose trails. Ecotourism resulting from the trail network is not insignificant. Overnight accomodations, restaurants, gas stations, and other special interest and intertainment venues all prosper as more visitors are attracted by multi-use trails. A restored Easter Lake will be a major attraction and this trail system will be showcase that restored water. The University of Northern Iowa study "Economic and Health Benefits of Bicycling in Iowa" details 364.8 million dollars in direct and indirect impacts to the State of Iowa. This is equivalent to \$1 million per day spent on cycling.</p>
<p><i>Additional information you would like to share:</i></p>	<p>All Phases of the Ackelson Trail have multiple bridges. These bridges as well as all trail components have been designed with public safety foremost. All bridges are designed to carry emergency vehicles allowing quick emergency response to any location of the trail.</p> <p>All parking lots are designed with rain gardens or bioswales to capture increased runoff before it enters the lake.</p>

