DES MOINES AREA MPO
Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Steering Committee

May 25, 2017
1. Call To Order and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Overview of the plan
4. Overview of funding of Phase I – Engineering Study
5. Process for selecting teams
6. Regional Study –
7. Downtown Study
8. Communications plan
9. On-going Steering Committee involvement
10. Other Non-Action Items
11. Next Meeting Date - TBD
12. Adjournment
Iowa’s First Regional Water Trails Plan

dmampo.org/water-trails
WHAT ARE WATER TRAILS?

All this plan could include....
Variety of User Experiences
Organization

Booklets

• Goals/Strategies/Policies
• 7 river and creek segments
  – High level recommendations
  – Maps
  – Project lists
  – Creative writing
Organization

Booklets

- Goals/Strategies/Policies
- 7 river and creek segments
  - High level recommendations
  - Maps
  - Project lists
  - Creative writing
Raccoon River

• 31 miles
• Tale of two rivers – rural and urban
• 24% in public ownership
• Multi-day paddling trips
Des Moines River

- 65 miles
- 41% in publically owned land along
- Wooded to urban to wild
- Most visible
- Sections highly used
- Levees

dmampo.org/water-trails
Downtown Des Moines to Lake Red Rock

Des Moines River Regional Park

dmampo.org/water-trails
Establish greenway between Harriet Street boat access and Yellow Banks Park
Carry-down/Boat Access Points

Des Moines River (10)
Raccoon River (7)
Beaver Creek (2)
Walnut Creek (2)
Middle River (2)

dmampo.org/water-trails
Economic Development Hubs

Van Meter, Booneville, Johnston, Riverpoint Place, Birdland Marina, Downtown Des Moines

dmampo.org/water-trails
Redevelopment Hubs

Re-imagine Prospect Park, Birdland Marina, Union Park, Botanical Garden, Harriet Street Boat Access
Fishing Access & Aquatic Habitat
Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers

Many boat access points could be multifaceted and function to offer shoreline fishing access points and other amenities needed by anglers including restrooms, parking and occasionally fish cleaning stations. Instream structures to improve fishing will also be considered.
Fishing Park – Des Moines River

Near the Harriet Street boat access.
Near downtown.
Redevelop as hub for fishing.
Offer amenities and instructional materials for newbies.
Wading, Discovery, Play

Des Moines, Raccoon, North & Middle Rivers, Walnut, Fourmile, Mud and Beaver Creeks

dmampo.org/water-trails
Waterside Amenities

Rentals
Liveries
Storage

dmampo.org/water-trails
Trail Connections, Soft Trails and Pedal/Paddle Opportunities

- Increase soft trails network
- Increase pedestrian connections from existing parks and trails to adjoining waterways
Creative shuttling
Pedal/Paddle Opportunities
Regional Coordination
Planning, Fundraising, Maintenance, Marketing

dmampo.org/water-trails
Interpretation, Wayfinding, Marketing

dmampo.org/water-trails
Public Art

dmampo.org/water-trails
Shoreline Restoration

Figure 4A-1
Live Stakes

Live stake cutting: ½" to 2" diameter; buds must be oriented up and side branches removed; cut bottom end at an angle for insertion into soil.

Dead stake
Erosion control fabric
Live cutting (rooted/leafed condition at the time of installation)
Soil surface
Install ½ of the live stake length into the ground.

dmampo.org/water-trails
Floodplain Protection

27% of Raccoon River floodplain is protected

41% of Walnut Creek floodplain is protected

1% of the North River floodplain is protected

14% of Fourmile Creek floodplain is protected

75% of Des Moines River floodplain is protected

dmampo.org/water-trails
Watershed Improvements

dmampo.org/water-trails
Maintenance
Logjams, Land Management, Resilience

dmampo.org/water-trails
Plan approved, November 2016

GREATER DES MOINES WATER TRAILS AND GREENWAYS PLAN
Overview of Funding

Feasibility Study

- Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau - $30,000
- Greater Des Moines Partnership - $30,000
- Polk County Conservation - $30,000
- Iowa Association of Realtors - $15,000
- Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines – up to $205,000
- Area jurisdictions - $196,000

Feasibility Study

- Staffing support – DNR - $20,000
Selecting Teams

- Divided: Downtown and the rest of the regional projects
- ISG Engineering Firm for regional projects
  - $127,000
- McLaughlin Whitewater Group for downtown team
  - $320,000
Rethinking How Communities Interact

SIGNIFICANT STRIDES + FOCUSED VISION

“Creeks and rivers are quite literally in our backyards. They are places for people to meet, play, and recreate; local economic drivers and ecotourism destinations; and community assets – something worthy of protection, restoration, and recreation.”
Local + Connected
MPO Trails Team

**Evan Del Val**  PE, CFM, LEED AP BD+C  Civil Engineer
Incorporating best management practices in a cohesive system.

**Derek Johnson**  PE  Principal-in-Charge + Senior Civil Engineer
Offering skilled leadership and effective management of stormwater improvement projects.

**Staci Williams**  Grant Writer + Water Quality Specialist
Bringing extensive experience developing water trails and marketing campaigns to promote outdoor recreation.

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**250+** ADDITIONAL RESOURCES  |  **50+** IOWA BASED PROFESSIONALS  |  **40+** YEAR HISTORY  |  **8 OFFICE LOCATIONS**

*ISG*
Multi-Disciplinary Advantage

**Environmental**
Assessment and review, permitting, and agency coordination

**Engineering**
Lighting, restroom plumbing, shelter framing, and foundations

**Landscape Architecture**
Outdoor site planning, park and trail design, river access points, and built and natural environmental integration

**Architecture**
Picnic shelters, restrooms, and other amenity designs

ISG’S FULL CIRCLE EXPERTISE ALLOWS US TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL OBSTACLES + OPPORTUNITIES AT THE ONSET OF EACH MPO PROJECT ELEMENT
PROCESS + SOLUTIONS
Action + Process

- Kick Off Meetings
- Field Assessment + Ground Truthing
- Desktop Site Assessment
- Follow-up Meetings with Jurisdiction
- Preliminary Site Design
- Final Design Concept
- Cost Estimate
- Report
Solutions at Work - Site 23
Solutions at Work - Site 23
Solutions at Work - Site 23
Solutions at Work - Site 23
## COST ESTIMATE

### MPO WATER TRAILS AND GREENWAYS PLAN - PHASE I

**Boyzur Creek**

**Proposed Site 23: Carry Down Access, Parking Lot, and Trail**

Location: 10th Street, Ankeny, IA

**MPA: $1,200,000**

**9/17/2007**

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**TOTAL COST:**

- **CONSTRUCTION:** $8,000.00
- **TOTAL PROJECT COST:** $10,000.00

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**MPO WATER TRAILS KICK-OFF PRESENTATION**

A VISION FOR DES MOINES RIVER GREATER DES MOINES WATER TRAILS + GREENWAYS
Solutions at Work - Site 34
Solutions at Work - Site 34
Solutions at Work - Site 36
Solutions at Work - Site 36
OPTION 1
Proposed parking lot, trail, and access point

PROS

- High visibility area
- Short portage distance between parking lot and river access without needing to require car crossing existing bike trail
- Easily accessible via Interstate 35/80 and Merle Hay Rd.
- Limited tree clearing required

CONS

- Iowa DOT owned land
- Steep existing slope on proposed parking lot limits potential footprint of lot or increases construction costs
- Sharing of drive access with Kwik Trip
- Limited/restricted locations for additional amenities (restrooms)
- Traffic congestion on Merle Hay and Kwik Trip access
OPTION 2  
Proposed parking lot, trail, and access point

PROS

☑ Immersed in overall City Master Plan utilizing existing/proposed roadway access
☑ Relatively short portage distance between parking lot and river access without requiring car crossing existing bike trail
☑ Easily accessible via Interstate 35/80 and Marle Hay Rd.
☑ Space available for additional amenities (restrooms, storage lockers, etc.)
☑ Proximity to planned retail

CONS

☑ Planned stormwater retention location, would require relocating of that facility
☑ Significant tree clearing required
☑ Less of a potential Water Trails Gateway focal point for the City of Johnston
IDENTIFIED LOCATION FOR KAYAK/CANOE ACCESS

PROS

☑ Potential parking near existing trails
☑ Space available for additional amenities (restrooms, storage lockers, etc.)

CONS

☑ Located on outside bend of creek
☑ Unidentified parking for water trails, additional parking required in passive recreation area (assumed by ISG)
☑ Less of a potential Water Trails Gateway focal point for the City of Johnston
Solutions at Work - Site 36
Solutions at Work - Site 36
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
Design Considerations

- Rest Rooms
- Lights
- Trash Cans
- Portage Distance
- Drinking Fountains
- Access Material
- Constructability
- Access for Construction
- Preservation of Existing Natural Resources

- Flood Elevation
- Existing Amenities/Plans
- Signage
- ADA Compliant
- Multi-use
- Showers
- Art
- Water Quality
- Restoration
- History/Culture

- Emergency Access
- User Classification Considerations
- Flood Resilience
- Picnic Facilities/Shelter
- Fences
- Security/Safety
- Utility Location
- Floodplain/Environmentally Significant
Putting It All Together

KICK-OFF MEETINGS
Spring 2017

DRAFT DESIGNS
August 2017

SITE VISITS
Spring + Summer 2017

FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS
ONGOING

JURISDICTION REVIEW
September 2017

PUBLIC REVIEW MEETINGS
October 2017

FINAL DELIVERABLE
Dec 31, 2017
Putting It All Together

**COLLABORATION**
Multi-layered engagement, review, and brainstorming processes will support custom solutions for each unique project and site, making a positive impact in ISG's very own backyard.

**SCHEDULE**
With all project members working in unison with a shared goal, highly strategic design schedules will progress smoothly and without delay due to direct access to important project information.

**COORDINATION**
Having all disciplines in-house will streamline communication both internally as a project team, as well as externally through interaction and collaboration with MPO project stakeholders. One point of contact - one common goal.

**TECHNOLOGY**
The use of innovative software and systems such as GIS, 3D visualization, NavisWorks, drone technology, and an full-service marketing and creative department, the design processes and final deliverable will be taken to the next level.
Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan
Downtown Des Moines Recommendations
Advisory Committee Meeting
May 24, 2017
9:30 – 11:00 AM
Introductions > Your Team

Rick McLaughlin
PE, Whitewater Engineer

John Anderson
Course Designer

Scott Crawford
PLA, ASLA, LEED AP
Landscape Architect

Pat Boddy
PE
Community Engagement Funding Strategist

Andy McCoy
PhD, PE
Hydrology Engineer

Roger Less
PE
Jurisdictional Coordinator

Molly Hanson
River Engagement and Interpretation

Mark Ackelson
Public Funding Advisor
Introductions > Your Team

DES MOINES AREA MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTIONS TO YOUR TEAM

- Project Leadership and Management
- Whitewater
- Dam Safety
- Cost Estimating

- Community Engagement
- Stakeholder Facilitation
- Park Planning
- Landscape Architecture
- Cultural and Environmental
- Interpretation
- Branding and Signage
- Architecture
- Lighting Design
- MEP Engineering

- Hydraulic Modeling
- Floodplain Management
- GIS Mapping
- Jurisdictional Coordination
- Cost Estimating

- Hydrographic Surveying

- Public and Private Funding Strategies

- Mark Ackelson

- Iowa Rivers revival
- Public/River Engagement and Interpretation
Qualifications
Why our team > Local Flood Knowledge

1993 Flood

On-the-Ground Knowledge of the Importance of the Des Moines Levees

2008 Flood

US Army Corps of Engineers’ Lead Flood Engineer to the City of Des Moines during the 1993 & 2008 Floods
Preservation of Historic Balustrades
Qualifications > Established Relationships

Downtown & Riverfront Crossings

Riverfront Crossing Park

Burlington Street Whitewater Park
Qualifications > Successful History of Urban River Restoration

- MWDG is the river specialty group of Merrick & Company - a 600 person firm.
- River group staff has a 30-year history of river restoration, river recreation and flood control projects of national stature.
- Vast majority of projects are completed as a prime consultant.

Our team has a noted history of restoring active urban waterways

2008 CA Civil Engineering project of the year
River restoration, dam removal, maintains upstream pool, very large river, $35m.
Qualifications > Large & Multi-Faceted River Projects

Urban Waterways Restoration, Denver, CO

- MWDG is the Prime Consultant
- River Restoration is the Primary Objective
- One of the largest urban river restoration projects undertaken by the USACE ($450m over 7 miles)
Qualifications > MWDG

Regional Vision:

- Healthy ecosystem
- Signature recreational economic driver
- Community focal point

In Downtown Des Moines study area:

In-river recreation with river restoration is the priority.
Qualifications > Chattahoochee River Restoration

✓ In active floodway
✓ Ecosystem restoration focus
✓ Removal of two historic dams
✓ Fish passage
✓ Safety- Class IV urban rapid
✓ Big river – already had 95,000 cfs
✓ Venue of international stature
✓ Incredible economic impacts

• “One of the Top 12 New Man-Made Adventures in the World - Best man-made whitewater - Chattahoochee River, Columbus, GA” - USA TODAY

• "That is best river restoration project I have ever seen," – Charles Walbridge, national river expert.
Qualifications > **Confluence Park, Denver, CO**

- Lowered floodplain – no levees
- Maintains upstream pool
- Safety – 30 years with no serious accidents
- Venue has national stature
- Stimulated $4 Billion in private economic development
Qualifications > Boise, Idaho

- Zero rise in leveed reach
- Dam removal
- Maintain upstream pool (critical)
- Safety
- Big River
- Stature – Voted top 5 surf waves in the world
- Very high usage with spectators
Qualifications > Iowa City, Iowa

- In active floodway – no rise
- Dam removal, dam mitigation, dam safety alternatives
- Maintain (and increase) normal upstream pool
- Safety
- Big River
- National Stature Venue
- Fish Passage
Qualifications > Unique and Relevant Technology

WaveShaper™ – Navigable Flashboard

✓ In active floodway – no rise conditions
✓ Maintain (and increase) normal upstream pool
✓ Dam mitigation
✓ Dam safeing
✓ Safety
✓ Big River

Also:
✓ Creates awesome recreational whitewater features
Qualifications > Aesthetics with Durability

1996 Olympic Venue

“Most visitors don’t realize it isn’t natural”- Park Ranger

Newly-changed Calgary weir still dangerous for rafters

Harvie Passage repair to cost millions | Alberta | Calgary Sun

Calgary's weir facing massive repair bill due to massive damage from high flood waters
Qualifications > **Large River Success**

- Only two projects are on rivers this size or larger and we have designed both of them.
- Of the next ten smaller projects – we have designed 40%.
- Half of the remaining 60% of this group have required significant repair or replacement.

Summary of constructed in-river whitewater parks in North America.

* Based upon data reported by others and may not be inclusive
Approach
1. **Inventory and Assessment**
   - Build from previous work: alternatives formulated, focuses identified

2. **Assess Alternatives for Flood Conveyance**
   - Schematic layout
   - Hydraulic modeling

3. **Alternative Refinement**
   - Integrate social, economic, environmental

4. **Recommendations**
   - Priorities plus implementation
   - Costing
Impacts on design due to flood conveyance
Approach > **Hydraulic Regulatory Compliance**

- **Floodplain Regulatory Concepts**
  - Floodway Fringe - Developable
  - Floodway – Variance for any Fill

- **Encroachment**
  - Floodway Fringe = > 1.0-foot (total)
  - Floodway => 0.0-foot (Zero Rise)
Approach > Bathymetric and Sediment Collection
Approach > Floodplain and Concept Modeling
Approach > **Flow, Sediment, and Ecological Function**
1. Inventory and Assessment
   • Build from previous work: alternatives formulated, focuses identified

2. Assess Alternatives for Flood Conveyance
   • Schematic layout
   • Hydraulic modeling

3. Alternative Refinement
   • Integrate social, economic, environmental

4. Recommendations
   • Priorities plus implementation
   • Costing
Downtown Rivers Study Area

Potential Hubs

1. Center Street Dam
2. Confluence Park
3. Scott Avenue Dam
4. East of SE 14th Street
5. Fleur/DMWW Dam*

*only visible during low river levels
Potential Hubs

1. Center Street Dam
2. Confluence Park
3. Scott Avenue Dam
4. East of SE 14th Street
5. Fleur/DMWW Dam*

*only visible during low river levels

Potential Water Trail
Designation: Gateway
Potential Experience Levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced

If the dams are mitigated and additional high caliber amenities are added, this could be categorized as a Gateway Level water trail with its exposure to a large number of users. With recommended improvements, downtown has the potential to offer a variety of experiences for beginner to advanced paddlers.

*See appendix regarding more detailed definitions and responsibilities of these designations.
### Section 3: Downtown Des Moines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Key Amenities</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Economic Hub | Botanical Center | Des Moines     | • Places for respite  
• Multi-use low docks  
• Rentals and outfitter possible at the Armory Building | • Complement and capitalize on Botanical Garden’s activities and expertise for programming opportunities  
• Start of the whitewater loop  
• Pedal to paddle opportunity  
• Pilot natural shoreline restoration for community education |
| Activity Hub | Events Center   | Des Moines     | • Sitting/viewing area for whitewater loop  
• Carry-down access  
• Natural vegetation  
• Fishing outcroppings | • Make use of current excess parking rather than building new  
• Consider drop-off and park designs  
• Pull-out point for whitewater loop |
| Activity Hub | Court Avenue   | Des Moines     | • Existing amenities at Hub Spot  
• Add carry-down access | • Create connections to Court Avenue the Principal Riverwalk, and the Downtown Farmers Market |
| Economic Hub | Principal Park  | Des Moines     | • Carry-down and emergency access  
• Wading area  
• Restrooms  
• Natural vegetation | • Partner with the Iowa Cubs to create mutually beneficial recreation opportunities  
• Make use of current excess parking rather than building new  
• Consider drop-off and park designs |
| Activity Hub | Scott Avenue   | Des Moines     | • Carry-down access  
• Improved parking  
• Fishing outcroppings  
• Activity areas  
• Natural vegetation | • Connect with trails for pedal to paddle opportunities  
• Connect across river to Mullet’s area and trails |

**Downtown Small Business Development**

There is interest to create a multipurpose ferry boat terminal and dock at the Riverside Hub in Downtown Des Moines. Mike Tipton, local ferryway entrepreneur, has drafted a plan for creating such a business. Included in his plan is a floating dock (pictured), ferry and excursion boats, all with food options. This project is a perfect example of how water trails can increase water business opportunities.
Approach> Downtown Rivers Study Area | Raccoon River

Greater Des Moines Water Trails & Greenways Plan | Downtown Des Moines Recommendations

**Potential Hubs**

1. Center Street Dam
2. Confluence Park
3. Scott Avenue Dam
4. East of SE 14th Street
5. Fleur/DMWW Dam*

Additional Dam Mitigation location noted in MPO.

Amenities:
- Carry-down Access
- Boat Access
- Fishing Access
- Wading Access
- Birding
- Soft Trails

Other Icons:
- River Gateway
- Trailhead
- Outdoor Recreation Trailhead
- Training Trailhead
- Bike Trailhead
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities
- Trailhead
- Existing
- Future
- Mile Marker
- Raccoon River
- Conservation Boundary
- 100-year Floodplain
- Conservation and Park Landscape
- Pet and Dog Areas
- 100-year Floodplain
- Bike Trail

Color Codes:
- Existing
- Potential
- Modifications

Potential Hubs:
- Economic Hub
- Activity Hub
- Campering
- Restrooms
- Portage
- Livery
- Parking
- Dam Mitigation
- Conservation Area

* Additional Dam Mitigation location noted in MPO.
Potential Hubs

1. Center Street Dam
2. Confluence Park
3. Scott Avenue Dam
4. East of SE 14th Street
5. East of SE 14th Street
6. Fleur/DMWW Dam*

Additional Dam Mitigation location noted in MPO.
Approach > 3D Photography and Virtual Reality Technology

Leveraging Communication Tools
- Existing Conditions
- Opportunities
- Constraints
Engaging Simulation Experiences

- Virtual Reality
- Smartphone
- Tablet
- PC
- Any internet browser
Approach > Funding Strategies

The funding matrix upcoming begins to demonstrate the range of potential partners - public and private - who may be able to bring meaningful resources to the table in support of this plan. Exploration of funding opportunities and partnerships will be an ongoing need for the successful implementation of the Clive Greenbelt Master Plan.

TABLE 14.1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES</th>
<th>Program Element</th>
<th>Possible Uses</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Federal Transportation Enhancement Program (IDOT through Regional Planning Affiliate (RPAB))</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding for enhancement or preservation activities of transportation-related projects.</td>
<td>T, L, O, W</td>
<td>The following projects: facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists; safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists; scenic or historic highways; programs; acquisition of scenic or historic sites; landscaping and scenic beautification; historic preservation; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors; control and removal or outdoor advertising; archeological planning and research; mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff; or transportation museums.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recreational Trails Program (Federal)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding for creation and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trail related projects.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Recreational trail extension.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recreational Trails Program (State; IDOT)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding for public recreational trails.</td>
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<td>Trail projects that are part of a local, area-wide, regional, or statewide trail plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP); IDOT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding for highway, street, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, or freight projects or programs which help maintain Iowa’s clean air quality by reducing transportation-related emissions.</td>
<td>T, O</td>
<td>Projects which will reduce vehicle miles traveled or single occupant vehicle trips; transportation improvements to improve air quality.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land and Water Conservation Fund; Iowa DNR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal funding for outdoor recreation area development and acquisition.</td>
<td>T, P</td>
<td>Improvements to existing recreation facilities and development of new facilities.</td>
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<td><strong>General Obligation Bonds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Allows the City to secure funding by pledging future tax revenues to repay the bond.</td>
<td>W, T, P, L, O</td>
<td>Capital improvements, such as street projects</td>
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Timeline
## Timeline > Process

### Work Plan

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<td>MPO &amp; Advisory Committee</td>
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<td><strong>2. Alternatives and Hydraulic Modeling</strong></td>
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Anticipated Deliverables
Anticipated Deliverables > Downtown Rivers Study

PDF deliverables anticipated to include:

1. Executive summary
2. Citizen and stakeholder engagement summary
3. Concept alternatives evaluated
4. Final concept plan
5. Two (2) perspective renderings
6. Screening-level costs
7. Potential partners and funding strategies matrix
8. Implementation timeframes and parameters
Questions and Discussion
Communications

Overall Goals:
- Let public and stakeholders know the plan is moving steadily toward implementation and is still very “real”
- Engage community and user groups for ongoing feedback on design
- Set stage for next phases, including fund-raising

Kick-off (asap) – announcement of firms, scope of work, next steps
- Tactics: 360 videos, media pitches, press release, website, social media, stakeholder emails, etc

Engagement (fall) – inviting public to participate

Study complete (late 2017/early 2018) -- put out a call to action
May 25, 2017 Agenda

1. Call To Order and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Overview of the plan
4. Overview of funding of Phase I – Engineering Study
5. Process for selecting teams
6. Regional Study
7. Downtown Study
8. Communications plan
9. On-going Steering Committee involvement
10. Other Non-Action Items
11. Next Meeting Date - TBD
12. Adjournment