CITY OF TONKA BAY
ITEM NO. 9B

Memo

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Joe Kohlmann, City Administrator

Date: October 22, 2013

Re: County Road 19 Trail Bridge

Attached is the latest proposal from the Three Rivers Park District on the County Road 19 Trail Bridge. They have provided additional documentation to support their decisions for the trail connections.

Three Rivers is looking for a preliminary "ok" from the City Council so that they can begin drafting up the easement agreements for the trail connections.

Council Action Requested:
Discuss the proposal from Three Rivers Park District.

Comments and Photos for the proposed temporary Detour Trail and permanent Local Trail

The final trail alignment for the temporary trail has been altered to address several conditions that were not apparent during our discussion at the last City Council work session.

- The trail alignment cannot follow directly behind the fence all the way around the back of the warning track due to the lack of sufficient space to fit the 10 foot trail between fence and water control structures.

- Additionally, as one goes further east there is not enough space between the fence and ball field scoreboard to fit in the trail.

There will be a need to place a properly sized temporary culvert in the drainage swale. This proposed alignment will also allow the soccer goal net to remain in place.

At the last work session it was discussed that the detour route should cross CR 19 at the south side of Northrup Ave., after revisiting the site, we are proposing that the Detour crossing occur on the north side of the street for the following reasons.

- South of Northrup Ave. the roads shoulder is considerably wider. It appears that this widen paved area is serving both as off street parking for the adjacent business and as a possible right turn lane for traffic traveling north on CR19 and turning onto Northrup Ave. Having trail users waiting to cross at this point could create an unsafe situation.

- In order to maintain the shortest, safe crossing point for the detour route, the crossing should be placed perpendicular to the road and not crossing at an angle. By moving the crossing to north side of road we are able to provide this type of crossing and provide better sight lines for trail users on either side of CR 19 of traffic coming from the south.

- There is also still a fairly wide shoulder on the north side of Northrup Ave. for trail users to stand and wait for traffic on CR 19 as well as a stop sign. The stop sign will help trail users crossing at Northrup Ave from either direction.

The last comments pertain to the City Council's request that the permanent Local Trail have no direct connection from CR 19, thus forcing the bikers using the county designated bike lanes on CR 19 to access the Local Trail connection by riding through the parking lot of Manitou Park.

- The parking lot in Manitou Park is designed with a one way road system, with all vehicular traffic expected to go right upon entering off CR 19, this is counter to what one would expect from the bikers coming off CR 19 and wanting to get to the Local Trail/LM LRT Regional trail which is to the left as they enter the parking lot. It is hard to imagine that they all would ride their bikes all the way around the parking lot. (The parking lot is currently only marked as one way on the pavement; it might help to add a directional sign on the post as one enters the lot.)