Moab City Council Agenda Item
Meeting Date: March 23, 2021

Item: A Resolution Expressing Support for Pursuing the Funding for and Construction of Future Phases of the Colorado River Pathway Located in Grand County, Utah.

Staff Presenter: Laurie Simonson, City Attorney

Attachment(s):

- Attachment 1: Resolution Expressing Support for Pursuing the Funding for and Construction of Future Phases of the Colorado River Pathway Located in Grand County, Utah
- Attachment 2: Map of the North Moab Recreation Areas Alternative Transportation System;
- Attachment 3: Pictures of the North Moab Recreation Areas Alternative Transportation System evidencing the need for Phase IV.

Proposed Motion: “I move to approve Resolution No. 07-2021 Expressing Support for Pursuing the Funding for and Construction of Future Phases of the Colorado River Pathway Located in Grand County, Utah.”

Background:

The Colorado River Pathway is currently an approximately three-mile paved non-motorized pathway which runs easterly parallel to the Colorado river along state highway 128 from Lions Park in Moab, UT. State highway 128 has a high average daily vehicle count of 1,055 vehicles including many large buses hauling boat trailers.

The Colorado River Pathway is part of the North Moab Recreation Area, an extensive non-motorized trail system connecting thousands of acres of public lands for over 54,000 users annually. The Colorado River Pathway currently has a 0.647 gap from approximately station marker 130+25.00 to station marker 164+66.86 approximately .6 miles prior to the Porcupine Rim Trail underpass and Grandstaff Canyon and therefore forces users to turn around or to enter the roadway where the absence of a shoulder and 10’ wide lanes create hazardous conditions for users and drivers. The “Whole Enchilada”
mountain bike trail system terminates at the Porcupine Rim Trail underpass and facilitates over 30,000 bikers annually and Grandstaff Canyon facilitates over 59,000 hikers annually.

Federal funds may become available soon to complete the 0.647 gap in the Colorado River Pathway. The Colorado River Pathway Phase IV plans for the continuation of the pathway to close the gap from approximately station marker 130+25.00 to station marker 164+66.86. Phase IV of the Colorado River Pathway will require approximately $8.5 million in additional funding for the completion of engineering, design, and construction.

The Colorado River Pathway Phase IV has not been completed to date and forces 30,000+ users onto state highway 128 for approximately 5/8 of a mile in an area with little to no shoulder or bike lane. The Phase IV extension of the Colorado River Pathway and the eventual continuation of the Pathway to the Town of Castle Valley would extend safe non-motorized recreation opportunities along the beautiful Colorado River and Scenic Byway on state highway 128.