

Letter of Intent

Rock Island Trail

4/18/24

Owner: City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department
1407 Recreation Way
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80905
(719) 385-6534

Applicant/Consultant: Kiowa Engineering Corporation
1604 South 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 630-7342

Site Location: Rock Island Railroad and Trail Grade beginning at Sand Creek to Constitution Avenue. See vicinity map attached.

Request. The City of Colorado Springs presently owns the former Rock Island Railroad right-of-way where it exists within the City and within El Paso County. Within the City most of the right-of-way has been developed into the Rock Island Trail. The segment of the Rock Island Trail subject to this request lies within El Paso County. The City is requesting approval of the design plans that show the proposed extension of the Rock Island trail, the trail's alignment and attendant signage and grading.

Description. The Rock Island Trail forms is a key portion of the City's overall trail system. The Rock Island trail corridor begins at the intersection of Monument Creek and the Rock Island Railroad right of-way and extends outside the City all the way to Falcon. The segment of trail subject to this construction begins at the east bank of Sand Creek, approximately 500 feet downstream of Constitution Avenue. From Sand Creek the corridor enters the former Rock Island Railroad right-of-way, land that is owned by the City but lies within the County. The trail moves east from Sand Creek within the former right-of-way and terminates at Constitution Avenue. Midway through the project the trail intersects Peterson Road where a proposed pedestrian crossing is proposed. The former right-of-way is bordered by residential and industrial subdivisions. Numerous informal trails and footpaths now exist.

The proposed trail will be concrete, widths ranging from 10- to 12-feet with gravel shoulders. Total length of the project is 9,600 lineal feet. A segment of breeze trail 6-foot in width will be extended to provide access to the main trail for those subdivisions that lie on the opposite side of the former railroad embankment, west of Peterson Road and north of the right-of-way. The trail is proposed to be constructed along the current grade to the greatest extent practical to minimize earthwork. The trail corridor crosses over one small side drainage paths that will require small diameter culverts to carry runoff beneath the trail. Street and trail signage will be installed as part of the project. Project will be funded by Federal Transportation grant and contributions from the City's capital improvement program.