

RESOLUTION No. R-2020-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF WARD TO SIGN A JOINT LETTER OF INTENT ALONG WITH CABOT MAYOR KENCAID, AUSTIN MAYOR CHAMBERLAIN, AND LONOKE COUNTY JUDGE ERWIN REQUESTING METROPLAN TO FUND THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN/BIKE TRAIL FROM WARD TO CABOT THROUGH AUSTIN UNDER THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER REASONS

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF WARD is a member of Metroplan, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Central Arkansas Region Transportation Study Area; and

WHEREAS, METROPLAN has committed to spending \$55 million over the next 10 year in developing a regional multi-use path network in the Metroplan area; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors for the cities of Ward, Austin and Cabot, along with the Lonoke County Judge are committed to promoting the regional connection between the three cities and a Letter of Intent to Metroplan is needed as the first step; and,

WHEREAS, in order to determine the estimated cost of the regional trail and provide the necessary documents to Metroplan by September 30, 2020, the group intends to hire Half to engineer this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WARD

SECTION 1: Hereby declares that the Mayor may – after the fact – sign a Letter of Intent with Cabot Mayor Kencaid, Austin Mayor Chamberlain, and County Judge Erwin (attached) requesting Metroplan to consider funding a regional pedestrian/bike trail connecting the cities of Ward, Austin and Cabot under the Surface Transportation Program in which cost will be split 80% Federal and 20% local funding.

SECTION 2: Authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement for engineering services, the cost of which will be shared by the cities of Ward, Austin and Ward and the county, as long as the amount to be paid by the City of Ward is within the spending limits authorized by Ordinance.

Said resolution has been properly introduced and the vote was:

PASSED

YEAS 6 NAYS 0

DATE: August 17, 2020

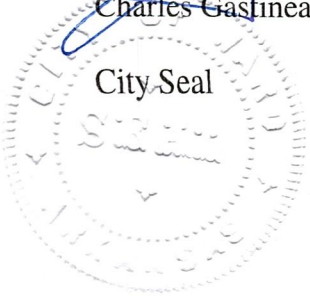
APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Charles Gastineau, Mayor


Courtney Ruble, City Clerk

City Seal





DOUG ERWIN

LONOKE COUNTY JUDGE

301 N. Center St. • Suite 201 • Lonoke, Arkansas 72086
Telephone: 501.676.6403 • Fax: 501.676.3038

August 10, 2020

Casey Covington
CARTS Study Director
METROPLAN
501 W. Markham Street, Suite B
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
covington@metroplan.org

RE: Letter of Intent – Surface Transportation Program Project
Pedestrian/Bike Tract

Dear Mr. Covington:

We the undersigned mayors of Austin, Cabot, Ward and the Lonoke County Judge do hereby submit this as our formal "Letter of Intent" to apply for funding under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) for the following project.

Ward City Hall to Austin City Hall to Cabot City Hall Pedestrian/Bike Trail

We intend to create a regional pedestrian/bike trail running from Ward City Hall to Cabot City Hall with Austin City Hall in the middle. This trail would link the two fastest growing cities (Austin and Ward) in the Metroplan area with the County's largest city (Cabot).

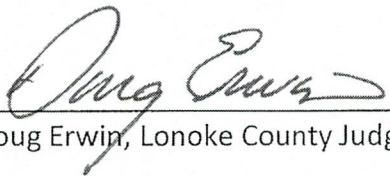
The proposed pedestrian/bike trail would be approximately 5.4 miles in length and would provide some 67,000 (estimated) residents of the region an opportunity to use the trail for not only exercise but leisure as well. As the trail is over 5 miles in length, local, regional or even national 5k events could be held which would bring tourism funds to the area. The trail would stem new economic development and continue to strengthen our area within the larger central Arkansas regions. It is an investment – an investment that will provide immediate benefits, but one that will continue to provide benefits many years in the future.

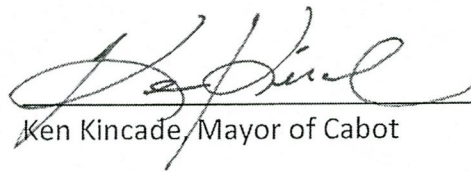
As the trail both starts and ends at city halls, parking would not be an issue even if someone just wanted to start in Austin and go either way to Cabot or Ward. Where feasible, adequate lighting would be installed along with rest stations where users could sit down for a break.


This project is intended to be in concert with Metroplan's forward thinking, trend-setting, "strategic commitment" to use approximately half of its STP block grants over the next ten-years to construct regional pedestrian/bike trailing all over the Metroplan area. As such, this project could be Phase 1 of the northern part of Metroplan regional pedestrian/bike trail that could eventually connect to the Southwest Trail already in progress. With proper planning, this segment could also be the starting point to a pedestrian/bike trail to Conway and areas near there. This City Hall to City Hall to City Hall project might even become a part of the U.S. Bike Route System currently under long-term development.

Attached is a very rough draft showing the proposed route. Based on a 2013 Federal Highway Administration cost estimates, the median cost to construct a paved multi-use trail was \$251,000 per mile. With that in mind, the estimated budget to construct 5.4 miles of pedestrian/bike trail would be approximately \$1.4 million not including lighting, rest stations, street crossing improvements, etc.

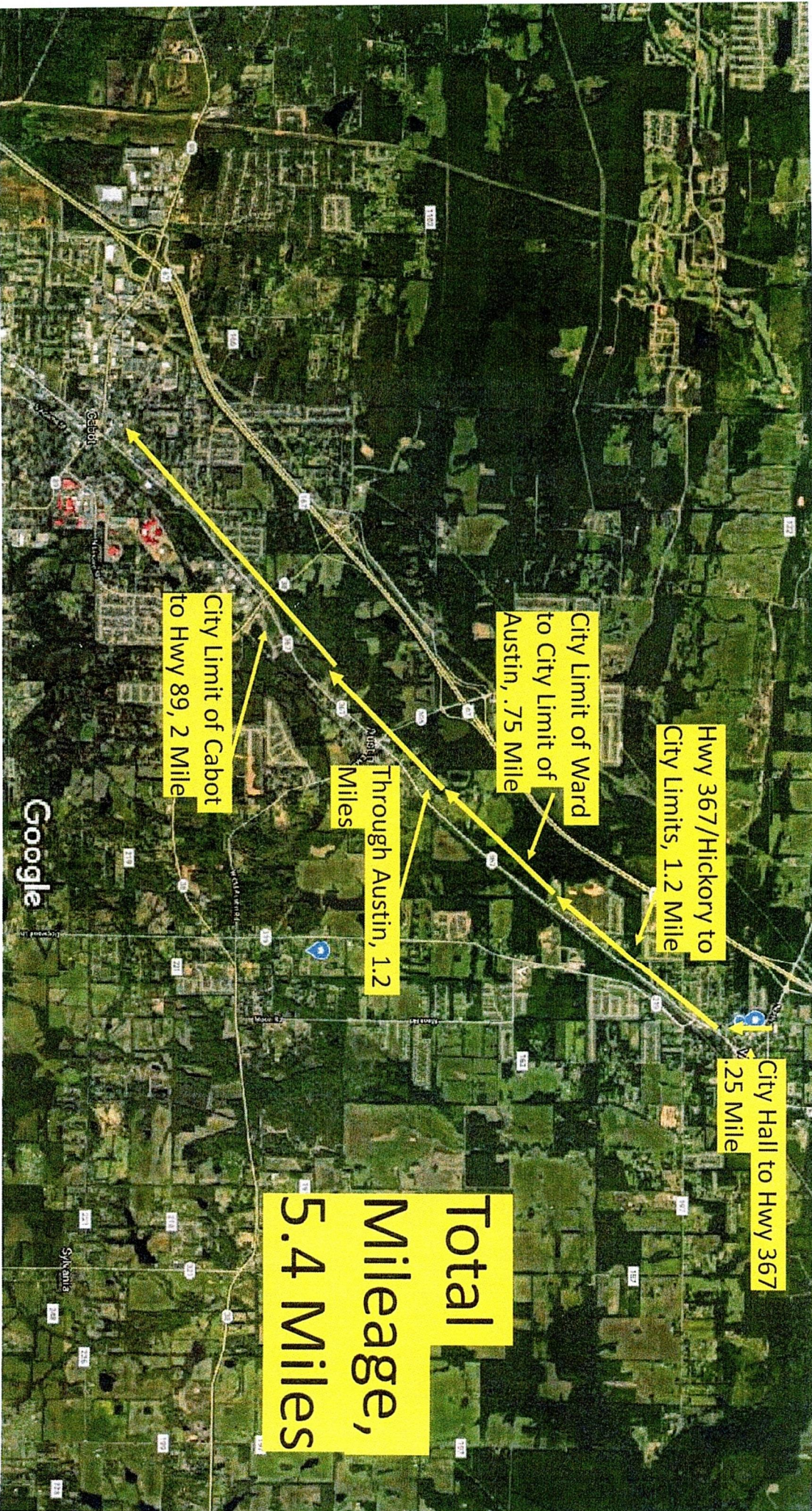
Respectfully;


Doug Erwin, Lonoke County Judge


Ken Kincade, Mayor of Cabot


Charles Gastineau, Mayor of Ward


Bernie Chamberlain, Mayor of Austin



City Hall to Hwy 367
2.25 Mile

Hwy 367/Hickory to
City Limits, 1.2 Mile

City Limit of Ward
to City Limit of
Austin, .75 Mile

Through Austin, 1.2
Miles

City Limit of Cabot
to Hwy 89, 2 Mile

**Total
Mileage,
5.4 Miles**