

RESOLUTION NO. 9394-R21
A RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO PURSUE IMPROVEMENT OF ABANDONED
RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

WHEREAS, the Norfolk Southern Railway Company has abandoned railroad right-of-way generally located between Florida Avenue and Washington Street in Urbana, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Urbana has received requests from property owners adjoining said right-of-way for assistance in its disposition and improvement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Urbana has determined that it is in the best interests of the City to pursue an opportunity to construct a bicycle/pedestrian path on said abandoned railroad right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the Conservation Group, a local not-for-profit organization, should be responsible for raising the local share of the grant; said local share to be that balance after the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Conservation award the municipality eligible expenses under their respective grant programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. The City Council finds and determines that the facts contained in the above recitations are true.

Section 2. That the Urbana City Council, does hereby authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Conservation Group and the Champaign County Development corporation by which the Conservation Group will raise \$33,500 to accommodate as the local share of said bicycle/pedestrian path construction and acquisition costs.

Section 3. The City Council agrees that if the Conservation Group presents the Mayor with evidence that \$33,500 has been raised by April 1, 1994, the City staff will then be directed to prepare a grant proposal to be submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for a grant from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act funds for the approval of said railroad. The expected eligible grant amount is \$242,944.

Section 4. If the IDOT grant is awarded, the City staff is then directed to prepare a grant for the Illinois Department of Conservation for bicycle path construction. The estimated grant amount for is expected to be \$27,456. Said grant is due March 1, 1995.

Section 5. The City staff is further directed to pursue acquisition of or rights to said abandoned railroad right-of-way from Norfolk Southern Railway Company in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 when the Illinois Department of Conservation Grant is awarded to the City.

Section 6. The City staff is further directed to survey the abandoned railroad right-of-way in manner that would allow the construction and fencing of a bicycle/pedestrian path without any further conveyance of property to adjoining property owners.

Section 7. If either the Conservation Group cannot raise the \$33,500 or either grant application is denied then:

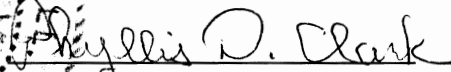
a. The Urbana City Council, does hereby direct the City staff to prepare a proposal for either a Special Service District or a Special Assessment Area for the private properties benefiting from regrading, improved drainage and other related physical improvements to the former Norfolk Souther Railway Company right-of-way between Florida Avenue and Washington Street in Urbana, Illinois.

b. The City staff is then directed to present the improvement project and its financing mechanism to the City Council for approval.

c. The City staff is further directed to pursue acquisition of or rights to said abandoned railroad right-of-way from Norfolk Southern Railway Company in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

d. The City staff is further directed to survey the abandoned railroad right-of-way in manner that would anticipate conveying right-of-way to the adjoining property owners in an organized and easily manageable manner. Said conveyance would be at the prorata cost of said survey work. City staff is directed to recommend a policy for Council approval for the orderly disposition of said parcels.

PASSED by the City Council this 17th day of Feb., 1994.


Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this 17th day of February, 1994


Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor

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