



NEWS RELEASE

THE CITY OF LINDSBORG

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"Välkommen Trail Phase 2 Construction Begins"

LINDSBORG, Kan. – The City of Lindsborg announces that construction of Phase 2 of the Välkommen Trail will begin in early April. The City is a recipient of a \$582,730 Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to extend the existing 2.5 mile hike/bike trail. TA grants are federal grants administered by KDOT. Successful applicants must provide 20% matching funds.

The total cost of the project is \$728,412. Pearson Construction of Wichita was awarded the contract to complete the work, estimated to take 14 weeks. The 10 foot wide concrete sidewalk will match the existing route constructed in 2006.

The Phase 2 Trail enhances the transportation system by serving to provide safe alternatives for travel to residents of Emerald Lake and Bethany Home assisted living. It is located near Bethany College, the sports complex and north trailhead parking, as well as to the motels, restaurants and grocery store located on the Harrison Street commercial district. The trail will provide connectivity from existing and planned residential neighborhoods to these areas. An impact of the project will include wellness and recreation opportunities for trail users. The existing trail has twelve points of conflict with other modes of transportation, requiring bollards, signage and pavement markings for trail and vehicular roadway safety. These intersections interrupt the flow of use, especially for runners and bicyclists. The new trail extension, in combination with the north reach of the existing Välkommen Trail, will create a section of pathway 1.25 miles in length without a single street crossing. This is a unique feature considering that this section is entirely within the city boundary.

Utilization of an abandoned railway corridor and safe-route access for families and senior citizens are primary considerations for the siting of the project.

The conversion of the abandoned Union Pacific railroad corridor for use as a trail will provide the opportunity to reclaim the overgrown right of way adjacent to Bethany Drive on its approach to State Highway K-4. The area will be regularly maintained by the city Parks Department to control weeds, prevent invasive species and provide erosion control.