

DEGC Oks RiverWalk Funding

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BY ROBERT ANKENY – CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

DETROIT - Work on the east end of Detroit's riverfront, including extension of the Riverwalk, got approvals from the **Detroit Economic Growth Corp.**

A \$40 million funding agreement for Phase 3 of the Riverwalk improvement project was OK'd, the next step for work to get underway on the landscaped walk/bike path from Rivard Street to Gabriel Richard Park and a pavilion on city property. The **Economic Development Corp.** will manage the project, with funds from a \$32 million grant from the Federal Enhancement Fund through the **Michigan Department of Transportation** and the **Detroit Department of Public Works**. The matching \$8 million comes from the **Detroit Riverfront Conservancy**.

About \$26 million, including funds from the city and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is earmarked for the Mt. Elliot-Wight Street project area and extension of the RiverWalk.

It runs around the U.S. Coast Guard station through Mt. Elliott Park, under the McArthur Bridge leading to Belle Isle and to Gabriel Richard Park.

The work will include street resurfacing, curbs and sidewalks, public lighting, water mains and sewers, and public parking spaces as well as sections of the RiverWalk.

The plan now goes to the Detroit City Council for final approval, project manager Scott Veldhuis said.

Also approved Tuesday was a proposal to hire **JJR L.L.C.**, Ann Arbor-based engineers and landscape architects, to design Phase II of the Dequindre Cut Greenway project between Gratiot and Mack avenues.

The Dequindre Cut is an abandoned railroad right-of-way running from the Detroit River east of the Renaissance Center north to Mack Avenue. It's being redeveloped to include biking and walking trails connecting the Detroit River from the RiverWalk and the Tri-Centennial State Park through Eastern Market to Midtown. Paving of the pedestrian trail from Woodbridge to Gratiot is expected to start this spring.

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