

# Jackson-Wilson path likely to see final link

By Michael Polhamus | Posted: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 4:30 am

Teton County commissioners gave the OK Tuesday to several miles of pathway that will parallel Highway 22, eventually completing a connection between Wilson and downtown Jackson.

Commissioners directed county staff to seek bids on a project that will build a pathway from the Snake River to an existing pathway just north of South Park's Indian Trails subdivision.

Commissioners also gave their blessing to another segment of pathway between Indian Trails and Spring Gulch Road, should funding allow.

The results of Tuesday's hearing will allow county staff to contract for both projects if the winning bid is low enough to be covered with available funds.

Teton County has about \$4 million set aside for the projects.

"It was a good step today," Jackson Hole Community Pathways Director Brian Schilling said. "They gave their formal blessing to proceed with the project, and it keeps us on track to complete the project" by this fall.

One segment will carry people along the north side of Highway 22 from the newly constructed pathway bridge over the Snake River to the Skyline Ranch subdivision, where it will cross beneath the highway to its south side.

County documents refer to that segment as Phase I of the middle section of the Path 22 project.

From Skyline Ranch the pathway will follow Highway 22 along its south side to Spring Gulch Road. There it will meet with another pathway segment extending along West Broadway to the five-way intersection near downtown Jackson.

That Phase II of the Path 22 project's middle section is still being designed, Schilling said. One question that remains, he said, is whether "we will have the design and permitting completed by the time we go out to bid so we can go ahead with" Phase II.

Specifications for Phase I are set to be released within weeks to contractors who might want to bid on the project, Schilling said.

Design documents for Phase II, he said, aren't likely to have been finished by then.

County staff will likely ask the winning bidder of Phase I to include an addendum to the contract for Phase II once the latter's design documents are complete, Schilling said.

Phase I has been estimated to cost as much as \$2.6 million, Schilling said. Phase II hasn't been estimated

with much precision yet, he said, but based on average linear foot costs it might run somewhere in the range of \$750,000.

An additional \$350,000 is anticipated on top of those prices for project administration, Schilling said.

Though the estimates come in at a couple hundred thousand dollars below what's available for the work, Schilling said it's not a sure thing that funding will remain for Phase II.

Phase I is planned for completion by September of this year, Schilling said.