



1459 Washington St.  
Muscatine, IA 52761-5040  
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**Public Works**

**City Transit**  
263-8152

**MEMORANDUM**

**Equipment Maintenance**  
**Roadway Maintenance**  
**Collection & Drainage**  
**Building & Grounds**  
**Engineering**

To: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

CC: Fran Donelson, Secretary

FROM: Randy Hill, Public Works Director

DATE: October 18, 2011

RE: Archaeological Survey – Musser Park-Wiggens Road Segment

**INTRODUCTION:**

The City of Muscatine is in the process of a preliminary design for a Mississippi River/American Discovery Trail segment that will go from Hershey Ave. to 41<sup>st</sup> Street.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Muscatine has received a \$459,636 Federal earmark for a trail that will be part of the Mississippi River Trail and the American Discovery Trail linking Hershey Ave. to 41<sup>st</sup> Street – a 3.37 mile segment. It will parallel Houser St. and Grandview Ave. and the Sewer Force Main to 41<sup>st</sup>. The Iowa Department of Transportation requires a Phase I Archaeological Survey be completed before design can begin.

**RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:**

It is staff's recommendation to authorize a Purchase Order to the Louis Berger Group in the amount of \$8,500. Louis Berger has performed other Archaeological Surveys for the City in the same area (i.e. Hershey Reconstruction Project and Hershey II Sewer Separation Project). The City included \$50,000 in the June 2010 bond issue for engineering and other related administrative costs for this specific trail project. This Archaeological Survey will be funded from that allocation.

**BACKUP INFORMATION:**

1. The Agreement and Scope of Services from the Louis Berger Group
- 2.
- 3.

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any  
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**



THE Louis Berger Group, INC.

October 14, 2011

Mr. Jon Lutz  
City Engineer  
Public Works Department  
City of Muscatine  
1459 Washington Street  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761-5040

RE: Cost Estimate for Phase I Archaeological Survey; Mississippi River Trail - Musser Park & Wiggins Road Segment, Muscatine County, Iowa

Dear Mr. Lutz:

Thank you for requesting our cost estimate to complete a Phase I archaeological survey for the above-referenced project. We understand that the City of Muscatine plans construct a 3.37-mile recreation trail between 41<sup>st</sup> Street South and Hershey Avenue. The proposed route will be sited primarily along the west side of the existing rights-of-way for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad and Houser Street and will have an approximate 20-foot-wide construction right-of-way. Depth of proposed construction is not expected to be greater than 10 to 12 inches. The overall project area is expected to encompass approximately 7 acres including permanent and temporary construction easements.

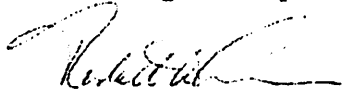
We've reviewed the project maps and other information you provided along with preliminary background information regarding known archaeological sites. We note that there are currently no sites reported within the project corridor, but that only a small segment in the vicinity of Dick Drake Highway has been surveyed for potential sites. We anticipate that the field survey will require a combination of pedestrian survey and subsurface testing to comply with state guidelines; however, subsurface testing will only be conducted where conditions indicate there is potential for buried archaeological deposits to occur within the impact zone for proposed construction. No testing will be conducted in areas where recent alluvial deposits or modern fill materials are present.

We estimate that we can complete the required investigations and survey report for a total cost not to exceed \$8,500.00. This includes a cost provision of \$1,100.00 for processing, analyzing and curating archaeological materials from as many as three archaeological sites. If no sites are discovered or if there is no requirement to collect site materials for analysis, then we estimate that our total cost will not exceed \$7,400.00.

We understand that time is of the essence in order for the City to meet certain application deadlines for federal aid; therefore, we are prepared to begin the necessary records search for this project upon receipt of your written notice to proceed. We anticipate that the field survey will take no more than one week to complete and that we will be able to provide you with a complete written report within two weeks of completing the field investigations.

If our proposed work schedule and fee structure are agreeable, please endorse this letter in the space provided below and return it to me by email ([rwithrow@louisberger.com](mailto:rwithrow@louisberger.com)) or fax (319-373-3045). This will serve as your written notice-to-proceed and it is all we need to initiate work on the project. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.



Randall M. Withrow, RPA  
Assistant Director, Cultural Resources

Signature Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_