

CITY COUNCIL TO HEAR ABOUT BRIDGE PLAN AT MEETING

August 21, 2017 at 4:00 pm | By AUSTIN MONTGOMERY Staff writer

BELOIT - A plan set to build a major pedestrian bridge over the Rock River in Beloit will be introduced to the Beloit City Council as part of Monday's meeting.

The pedestrian and cyclist "Ironworks Bridge" will start between the Ironworks Hotel and Heritage View building, and reach across the river to the Ironworks campus.

The 228-foot long, 10-foot wide bridge will utilize a Warren Truss structure, or bridge using equilateral triangles as commonly seen on railroad bridges.

The \$1.2 million bridge will be funded privately through Hendricks Commercial Properties, including a fund of \$77,500 to be designated for a future maintenance of the structure.

"The Ironworks Bridge project is yet another example of the exceptional public/private partnerships that are so unique to Beloit," said Beloit City Manager Lori Curtis Luther. "We value our relationship with Diane Hendricks and all she has done and continues to do to support our community."

The bridge will be designed to be set in place by multiple sections, not requiring any on-river construction, according to Batterman Director Frank McKearn. A piece of vacant property - formerly the site of the First United Methodist Church - next to the Vision Beloit Center will serve as a staging area for the project.

As part of the plan, the city would need to create an access easement over city property on the east side of the river from the start of construction until its dedication. Permanent easements will be required over the Ironworks Hotel and over the Spine Road at Ironworks to allow public access to the bridge, according to the Aug. 21 agenda.

Action over the project by the council is expected at the Sept. 5 meeting. Once finished, the bridge will connect pedestrians to paths around the 750,000-square-foot Ironworks campus, and connect residents with the city's network of river trails. No project completion date has been released, but city staff anticipate work would get underway within the next six months.