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Concrete deal saves city \$500,000

Rubble from temporary bridge could be used at old Iberia Street landfill

Posted: April 3, 2010 - 12:11am



Workers continue to remove concrete from the temporary bridge on Friday. The rubble will be used to stabilize the old Iberia Street landfill. By DARON DEAN, daron.dean@staugustine.com.

By [PETER GUINTA](#)

An "ecologically smart" agreement brokered by Chief Operating Officer John Regan could save the city \$500,000 in taxpayer dollars, and Vice Mayor Errol Jones said Friday that he'll ask the St. Augustine City Commission to shift the saved money directly to the Iberia Street repaving project.

Regan's idea was for the city to acquire the newly created concrete rubble from the temporary Bridge of Lions, dismantle and use it as shoreline stabilization at the old Iberia Street landfill.

The landfill is being permanently capped, a project that will take about nine months.

"The engineering estimate to buy concrete rip-rap is \$600,000 to \$800,000," Regan said. "But Skanska, the contractor that refurbished the Bridge of Lions, is now breaking up the concrete at the temporary bridge. It

had planned to haul the rubble to a concrete recycling plant 10 to 15 miles away."

Regan said the city will save money by getting free concrete, and Skanska saves quite a bit in trucking costs.

"We are fortunate. The timing is excellent," he said.

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Permission has already been given by the departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation, he said.

In a March 31 memo to the city, Emerson Raulerson, a supervisor for the Department of Environmental Protection, said, "DEP is happy that the city has found a cost-efficient use of a material that otherwise would be sent for disposal."

Jones, who as commissioner has pushed the Riberia Street project for years, said the city will need to pay about \$50,000 to \$100,000 to install the rip-rap.

That nets the city roughly \$500,000, he said.

"We're closer than we've ever been (to starting the Riberia project). They're going to begin Phase I, from King Street to Bridge Street, sometime in August or September," he said.

His motion to move the savings to Riberia Street's Phase II -- Bridge Street to the Willie Galimore Center -- will be offered at the City Commission meeting on April 12.

"We're going to start that project, and it will be a seamless project," Jones said. "We're committed to going all the way through. We'll have to pay our own way, or we can borrow.

"But the citizens well deserve that street being repaired, and that's our responsibility."

The first phase, King to Bridge, will cost \$3.1 million. Bridge to Galimore will cost \$5 million.

According to Regan, this idea follows the "green" initiative's "reduce, reuse, recycle" concept.

"Being globally smart saves us money," he said. "Every dollar we save on the landfill project can be used for a better purpose."

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