

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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DATE: November 19, 2012

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Jan Youngquist, AICP; Planning Analyst—Regional Parks and Natural Resources (651) 602-1029

SUBJECT: (2012-xxx) Reimbursement consideration for the East Anoka County and Central Anoka County Regional Trails from a future Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation, Anoka County
Metropolitan Parks & Open Space Commission District E: Tony Yarusso

INTRODUCTION

Anoka County has eleven proposed and existing regional trails within its jurisdiction and works closely with local municipalities in the planning and construction of these trails. Frequently, regional trails are constructed in conjunction with roadway projects. In some instances, the local city has constructed segments of the regional trail and has been reimbursed by the County when funding becomes available. The County has been working with the Cities of Andover, Ham Lake and Blaine in the planning, design and future construction of three regional trail segments. The County requests that up to \$250,000 of the costs associated with construction of the trail segments be eligible for reimbursement as part of the County's portion of a future Regional Park Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Funds. See **Attachment 1, Letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County.**

The trail projects and associated costs include:

- Up to \$50,000 for the construction of a .4 mile segment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail along Bunker Lake Boulevard between Round Lake Boulevard and 38th Avenue in Andover
- Up to \$130,000 for the construction of a 1.3 mile segment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail along Bunker Lake Boulevard between Hanson Boulevard and Highway 65 in Andover and Ham Lake
- Up to \$70,000 for the construction of a 2 mile segment of the East Anoka County Regional Trail along Lexington Avenue between Main Street and Bunker Lake Boulevard in Blaine

This staff report contains a review of this request under applicable terms of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and recommends approval of the reimbursement consideration request based on its consistency with the Council's policy on reimbursement.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Minnesota Statute Section 473.315 authorizes the "Metropolitan Council with the advice of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to make grants from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to any municipality, park district or county located wholly or partially within the metropolitan area to cover the cost, or any

portion of the cost, of acquiring or developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the [*Regional Recreation Open Space*] Policy Plan”.

ANALYSIS

Finance Strategy 6 of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* states:

Finance Strategy 6: Reimbursement

“...Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan; that all information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project; and that the Council approves the project...”

This request is consistent with the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost for the construction of portions of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail and the East Anoka County Regional Trail are consistent with the Council-approved master plans for these trails.
2. Sufficient information has been submitted in this request regarding what would be financed with a Council grant to meet the requirements of Finance Strategy 6. In this case, that information is contained in the County’s letter **Attachment 1**.
3. Anoka County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for County expenditures on these projects prior to undertaking them.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* requires that requests for CIP reimbursement consideration are consistent with the terms of Finance Strategy 6. This review concludes that Anoka County’s request for reimbursement consideration of up to \$250,000 for construction of segments of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail and the East Anoka County Regional Trail is consistent with the terms of Finance Strategy 6. The timing of when Anoka County is reimbursed for any portion of the \$250,000 is dependent on when funds are provided in future Regional Park Capital Improvement Programs.
2. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that a reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Anoka County up to \$250,000 from its share of a future Regional Park Capital Improvement Program, funded through the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, for construction of segments of the Central Anoka County and East Anoka County Regional Trails. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Attachment 1: Letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

November 16, 2012

Arne Stefferud, Manager, Regional Park and Natural Resources
Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Reimbursement Request for Future Parks and Trail Legacy Funds for Regional Trail Construction

Dear Arne:

As you are aware, Anoka County has eleven proposed and existing regional trails. The County works closely with the local municipalities on the planning and construction of these trails. On occasion, the local city has constructed the regional trail and been reimbursed by the County when funding becomes available. The County has three requests of this type and seeks approval by the Metropolitan Council for future reimbursement of costs relating to regional trail construction with future Parks and Trails Legacy fund allocations. The three requests are as follows:

1. Anoka County has been working with the City of Andover on the planning, design and future construction of Central Anoka County Regional Trail between CSAH 9/Round Lake Blvd and 38th Avenue. This trail segment will be constructed in conjunction with the CSAH 116/Bunker Lake Boulevard road reconstruction. The reimbursement amount is anticipated to be no more than \$50,000 and is expected to be requested through a future Parks and Trails Legacy allocation. Trail construction is anticipated to be completed by 2014. This project is consistent with the Central Anoka County Regional Trail master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council in May 1999.
2. Anoka County has also been working with the Cities of Andover and Ham Lake on the planning, design and future construction of a portion of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail along CSAH 116/Bunker Lake Boulevard from CSAH 78/Hanson Boulevard to Highway 65. This project is also expected to be constructed in conjunction with road reconstruction. The reimbursement amount for this project is anticipated to be no more than \$130,000 and is expected to be requested through a future Parks and Trails Legacy allocation as well. Trail construction is anticipated to be completed by 2015. This project is also consistent with the Central Anoka County Regional Trail master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council in May 1999.
3. Anoka County has also been working with the City of Blaine on the planning, design and future construction of a portion of the East Anoka County Regional Trail along CSAH 17/Lexington Avenue from CSAH 14/Main Street to CSAH 116/Bunker Lake Boulevard.

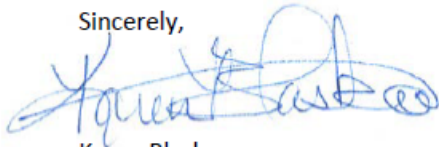
This project will also be constructed in conjunction with road reconstruction. The reimbursement amount for this project is anticipated to be no more than \$70,000 and is expected to be requested through a future Parks and Trails Legacy allocation. Trail construction is expected to be complete in 2013. This project is consistent with the East Anoka County Regional Trail master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council in January 2004.

These trail projects will further develop the regional trail system in Anoka County and will close three gaps in the regional trail system. I am enclosing a map that shows the location of the trail projects for your reference.

These reimbursement requests are being submitted for Metropolitan Council consideration under applicable portions of Finance Strategy 6 in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy as amended on July 25, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 763-767-2865 or karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Karen Blaska
Park Planner

cc: John VonDeLinde, Director

Anoka County Parks and Recreation Request for Future Reimbursement from Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Allocation

