

C Community Development Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 24, 2008

Item: 2008-227

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: September 16, 2008

Subject: Request for CIP reimbursement consideration for match to Federal trail construction grant of Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Carver County

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$1,072,000 for the match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail in future regional parks capital improvement programs. 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.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

The Committee clarified that each portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail right of way is owned by the Hennepin, Carver and McLeod County regional rail authorities and leased back to a park agency to manage for trail purposes. The Committee asked what McLeod County was doing with their section of this trail. Carver County Parks Director Marty Walsh replied that McLeod County was negotiating the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources to have them manage the McLeod County portion of the trail.

The Committee unanimously approved the amended recommendation.

C Community Development Committee

Business Item

Item: 2008-227

Meeting date: September 15, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	September 8, 2008
Subject:	Request for CIP reimbursement consideration for match to Federal trail construction grant of Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Carver County
District(s), Member(s):	District 4, Craig Peterson
Policy/Legal Reference:	2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Strategy 2(f)
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst—Parks (651-602-1360)
Division/Department:	Community Development/Regional Systems Planning and Growth Strategy, Parks

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$1,072,000 for the match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail in future regional parks capital improvement programs. 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.

Background

Carver County has asked the Metro Council to consider reimbursing the County up to \$1,072,000 in future regional parks capital improvement programs as a match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the Carver County portion of Dakota Rail Regional Trail in Carver County.

On August 8, 2007 the Metropolitan Council approved a master plan for the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Referral No. 20027-1). The Dakota Rail Regional Trail is 44 miles in length and runs from Wayzata in Hennepin County to Hutchinson in McLeod County. Carver, Hennepin and McLeod County Regional Rail Authorities acquired their respective portions of the railroad corridor in 2001 to preserve the corridor for future transit operations. The segment of the corridor in Carver County is 12.4 miles long and extends through the northern portion of the County.

Rationale

The *2030 Park Policy Plan's* policy on CIP reimbursement consideration (Strategy 2f) requires the park agency to obtain approval from the Metropolitan Council for spending its own funds on a capital project in advance of doing work on the project. The project must be consistent with the Council-approved master plan for the applicable park or trail unit.

Funding

The budget for constructing the trail is \$3,048,000 in which \$1,072,000 is financed by Carver County and \$1,976,000 federal Transportation Enhancement grant

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission reviewed this proposal at its September 8th meeting and unanimously approved the recommendations. There is no known opposition to this proposal.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904

DATE: August 27, 2008

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1360

SUBJECT: (2008-227) Request for CIP reimbursement consideration for match to Federal trail construction grant of Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Carver County

INTRODUCTION

Carver County has asked the Metro Council to consider reimbursing the County up to \$1,072,000 in future regional parks capital improvement programs as a match to a \$1,976,000 federal Transportation Enhancement grant to develop that portion of Dakota Rail Regional Trail in Carver County. See **Attachment 1**, letter from Marty Walsh, Carver County which is the basis for the \$1,072,000 reimbursement consideration request.

This memorandum contains a review of the request for reimbursement consideration under applicable terms in Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

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*”.

BACKGROUND

On August 8, 2007 the Metropolitan Council approved a master plan for the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Referral No. 20027-1). The Dakota Rail Regional Trail is 44 miles in length and runs from Wayzata in Hennepin County to Hutchinson in McLeod County. Carver, Hennepin and McLeod County Regional Rail Authorities acquired their respective portions of the railroad corridor in 2001 to preserve the corridor for future transit operations. The segment of the corridor in Carver County is 12.4 miles long and extends through the northern portion of the County. **Attachment 2** illustrates the location of the trail in Carver County.

REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST ANALYSIS

Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* states:

Strategy 2(f): 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 a 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 project is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost of this project are consistent with the Council-approved development master plan under the following factors:
 - a. The timing, scale and cost of the project is consistent with the development master plan for the Carver County portion of the trail approved by the Metropolitan Council on August 8, 2007. As noted in the letter from Marty Walsh, the budget for the project is as follows:

Activity	Amount	Funding Source
Design, Engineering, Inspection	\$ 508,000	Carver County
Construction	\$ 564,000	Carver County
Construction	\$ 1,976,000	Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant
Total	\$ 3,048,000	

- b. Enough information has been submitted in this request regarding what would be financed with a Council grant to meet the requirements of Strategy 2(f). In this case, that information is contained in **Attachments 1 and 2**.
- c. Carver County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for this project prior to undertaking it.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

The trail will generally utilize the existing rail bed. The trail may divert from the right-of-way centerline where realignment would provide additional buffering to adjacent properties. Site preparation will require standard construction preparation, tree trimming, minor excavation, sub-grade preparation and miscellaneous removals. Minimal grading will be necessary along the rail bed centerline to accommodate the typical trail section. The trail will be designed in accordance with applicable guidelines from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials' *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*, 1999, and Minnesota Department of Transportation's *Minnesota Bicycle Transportation and Planning Guidelines*, 1996.

The trail will have a bituminous surface. There are twelve at grade road crossings along the trail corridor. Two will require Type I crossings and ten will require Type II crossings. The Type I crossings are for intersections with high volume state highways or county roads and include signage, striping and roadway pavement markings. Type II crossings are for intersections with county roads and high volume local roads and include signage and striping.

In places where the trail crosses a gravel road, a paved trail crossing will be constructed with pavement extending 50 feet down the roadway from the trail centerline on both sides. This will minimize the amount of gravel deposited on the trail crossing, which can be hazardous to trail users.

The Dakota Rail corridor has five trestles that connect the rail bed across wetlands, creeks and rivers as it crosses Carver County. The County intends to repair damaged trestles at the time of construction as needed for structural integrity. The necessary trestle retrofits to accommodate a trail include adding safety fencing and rub rails to the sides and timber planking or bituminous overlay on the tread surface.

CONCLUSION

1. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* requires that requests for CIP reimbursement consideration are consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). This review concludes that the reimbursement consideration request of \$1,072,000 for the match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail as shown in **Attachments 1 and 2** is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). The timing of when Carver County is reimbursed for any portion of the \$1,072,000 is dependent on when funds are provided in future regional parks capital improvement programs. However, 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 Carver County up to \$1,072,000 for the match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail in future regional parks capital improvement programs. 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 Marty Walsh, Carver County



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, Minnesota 55322
Phone (952) 466-5250 Fax (952) 466-5223
www.co.carver.mn.us/parks

Department of Public Works

11360 Hwy, 212 West, Suite 1
Cologne, Minnesota 55322
Phone (952) 466-5200
Fax (952) 466-5223

August 15, 2008

Arne Stefferud
Planning Analyst-Parks
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101
RE: Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Dear Arne:

On August 8, 2007 the Metropolitan Council approved the master plan for the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.

Carver County has been notified that it has been approved for federal funding to construct a 6 mile segment of the Dakota Rail Regional trail in 2010 and a second 6 mile segment in 2012. The estimated cost to design and construct the 12 mile regional trail is \$3,048,000. Carver County projects that the local share of the design, engineering and construction costs will be \$1,072,000. The below budget is provided for further reference.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Design, Engineering, Inspection	\$508,000	Carver County
Construction	\$564,000	Carver County
Construction	\$1,976,000	Federal TE Funds
Total		\$3,048,000

It is requested that the Metropolitan Council act to allow future reimbursement to Carver County from the Metropolitan Council's CIP Program. Reimbursement is requested for Carver County's share of costs incurred after their action.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Carver County
Parks Director

Attachment 2: Location of Carver County portion of Dakota Rail Regional Trail

