

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

DATE: September 24, 2010

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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

SUBJECT: (2010-xxx) 2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment to authorize additional FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund financed grant to Three Rivers Park District

INTRODUCTION

On July 8, 2009 the Metropolitan Council approved a \$1.1 million grant financed from the Fiscal Year 2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation to Three Rivers Park District to replace a retaining wall along the eastern shore of Lake Independence at Baker Park Reserve. Replacement will protect over 800 feet of shoreline and beach area along the lake (Grant SG-2009-029).

Due to a very favorable bidding climate and changes in the project's design, there is \$680,000 that is not needed for the project. The Park District has submitted a request that these funds be used for a new grant that would match a \$1 million Federal transportation grant to construct a bridge crossing on the Luce Line Regional Trail. The expiration date of the \$680,000 is proposed to be December 31, 2016 to align with the expiration date of the Federal grant (See **Attachment 1**, letter from Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District).

This memorandum contains a review of this request under applicable terms of the appropriation legislation and grant agreement and recommends reducing grant SG-2009-029 by \$680,000 and approving a new grant of \$680,000 for the Luce Line Regional Trail bridge with an expiration date of December 31, 2016.

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

Grant SG-2009-029 was funded with a portion of the FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation under Laws of MN 2009, Chapter 172. The 2008 Constitutional amendment that created the Parks and Trails Fund and subsequent 2009 appropriation legislation requires grant funds to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance, and when the Parks and Trails Fund grant is matching a federal grant the expiration date of the Parks and Trails Fund grant may align with the expiration date of the Federal grant.

In this case, using the \$680,000 remaining in Grant SG-2009-029 to match a Federal grant for the construction of a bridge on the Luce Line Regional Trail is consistent with Constitutional amendment

requirement. Allowing the grant's expiration date to align with the December 31, 2016 expiration of the Federal grant is consistent with the 2009 appropriation legislation.

Since the proposed use of the \$680,000 is for a distinctly separate project from what was proposed in Grant SG-2009-029, two actions should occur:

1. Approve an amendment to Grant SG-2009-029 which reduces the grant amount by \$680,000 for a new total of \$420,000.
2. Approve a grant of \$680,000 to Three Rivers Park District for a match to a \$1 million Federal transportation enhancement grant to construct a bridge on the Luce Line Regional Trail with an expiration date of December 31, 2016.

CONCLUSIONS

1. \$680,000 is not needed to replace a retaining wall along eastern shore of Lake Independence at Baker Park Reserve due to a favorable bidding climate and changes in the project's design.
2. Reallocating the \$680,000 to match a \$1 million Federal transportation enhancement grant to construct a bridge on the Luce Line Regional Trail with an expiration date of December 31, 2016 is consistent with **2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council approve a 2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment which:

1. Amends Grant SG-2009-029 to Three Rivers Park District by reducing the grant amount \$680,000 for a new total of \$420,000.
2. Approves a grant of \$680,000 to Three Rivers Park District financed from the reduction in grant SG-2009-029 to be used as a match to a \$1 million Federal transportation enhancement grant for constructing a bridge on the Luce Line Regional Trail with an expiration date of December 31, 2016.

Attachment 1: Letter from Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District



September 20, 2010

Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners

Mr. Arne Stefferud
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Sara Wyatt
District 1

Dear Mr. Stefferud,

Marilynn Corcoran,
District 2

Three Rivers Park District is close to completion of a number of 2009 Metropolitan Council Legacy Grants. Due to a very favorable bidding climate as well as some project design changes, the Park District has a remaining balance of \$680,000.

Mark Haggerty
District 3

The Park District would like consideration of adding an additional project. The Park District would like to direct those remaining dollars to the development of a bridge crossing on the Luce Line Regional Trail. This project has been awarded Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds in the amount of \$1,000,000. Use of legacy funds will assist the Park District in completion of the project design and meet our match requirements.

Dale Woodbeck,
Vice Chair
District 4

The Federal Grant expires December 31, 2016. It is my understanding that legacy funds used to match federal dollars would mirror the expiration of the federal grant.

Rosemary Franzese
District 5

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to presenting this information to the Parks and Open Space Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Boe R. Carlson".

Larry Blackstad, Chair
Appointed

Boe Carlson
Associate Superintendent
Division of Administration

Barbara Kinsey
Appointed

C: Cris Gears, Superintendent
Don DeVeau, Director of Planning & Development
Howard Koolick, Chief Financial Officer

Cris Gears
Superintendent

BRC/jjs