

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Funding Report

General Section

Park or Trail Name: Mesabi Trail

Park ID: 15-059D Funding Application #: 16-045F

Date Designated: 2016-09-16 District1

Lead Organization: St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority

First Name: Bob Last Name: Manzoline

Mailing Address: 111 Station 44 Road

City: Eveleth State: MN Zip: 55734

Phone: 218-744-2653 Email: bmanzoline@rrauth.com

Project Name: Mesabi Trail Segment; Vermilion State Park to Eagles Nest Town Hall

Project Description:

General: The Mesabi Trail is a planned 155 mile long paved trail from Grand Rapids to Ely.

Approximately 115 miles of the trail, from Grand Rapids to Embarrass and in the areas of Tower and Ely have been completed since the trails inception in year 1996. The Mesabi Trail is owned and maintained by the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RRA). The trail serves as an alternate transportation and recreational corridor namely for non-motorized pedestrian, bike, ski, horses, and motorized snowmobile use where designated. The St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) performs the trail development work including liaison with agencies & local jurisdictions, public meetings, contract administration, right-of-way acquisition and other administrative functions. Legacy funds will be used for environmental work, engineering work and construction. The RRA is experienced at leveraging funds, meeting grantor requirements, matching non-state & non-federal sources and completion dates. Do to the extensive Mesabi Trail length, the trail has been divided into attainable segments guided by funding availability, development issues and cost of construction as further described within the Master Plan. To date over 40 segments have been constructed. Specific: This grant request is for development and construction of a Mesabi Trail segment located between the Lake Vermilion State Park (VSP) and the Eagles Nest Township, Town Hall hereafter referred to as "the Project". The Project begins near the easterly boundary of VSP and making connection to the existing Mesabi Trail. From VSP, the trail will proceed easterly for a distance of approximately 3 miles along a portion of the forthcoming abandoned Highway 1/169 to Bearhead State Park Road (County Rd 128) thence southerly within County Rd 128 right-of-way for a distance of approximately 1.5 miles to the Eagles Nest Town Hall there terminating and making connection to the existing Mesabi Trail. The Project total length is approximately 4.5 miles. Part 1 of the Project will use the forthcoming Highway 1/169 abandonment. Highway 1/169 is being relocated approximately 1 to 2 miles south of it's current location by the MN Department of Transportation. The Project proposes to utilize and recondition one of the highway lanes from VSP to the Bearhead Road. State Highway

abandonment issues are being resolved with the assistance of St. Louis County Highway Department whom will likely be the recipient of the abandon highway. The Mesabi Trail has reused former roadways in the areas of Buhl and Keewatin which have worked very well for trail use. Part 2 of the Project will be new trail construction within the Bearhead Road corridor. The existing road winds between Armstrong and Eagles Nest Lakes making for a narrow travel corridor. Several trail route alternatives have been presented and discussed at public meetings held by the Eagles Nest Township Board and St. Louis County Highway Department. A preferred route alternative has not been selected at this time.

Funding Section

Project Cost Breakdown: RRA has worked with Legacy, LCCMR, DNR Trails and other State funds administered by the MN DNR. Even though each grantor has variations of eligible costs, reporting and other requirements, we have basically broken down costs into the categories of project administration, environmental, r-o-w acquisition, engineering and construction. In coordination with MN DNR grant administrators, we determine budgetary amounts for each task. The proposed funding categories, brief task description and budget amounts are as follows: Project Administration: project lead, fiscal agent, public relations, consultant coordination, contracting. RRA performs this work in-kind. Environmental: environmental clearance typically involving an environmental worksheet in compliance with NEPA and MEPA. Also, arranging for mitigation's that may occur. Estimated cost is 3% of the project cost or \$24,000. Right-of Way Acquisition: acquire land, easements, permits for the trail corridor including negotiations, deeds, recording. RRA performs this work in-kind. No land purchase is anticipated using grant funds. Engineering: in support of environmental route analysis, survey, design, construction documents, bidding and construction administration. Estimated cost is 16% of the project cost or \$120,000. Construction: constructing Part I, 3.0 miles on abandon roadway, grading, leveling, paving, shouldering, signing. Estimated cost of \$606,000. A Federal Transportation Alternative Program grant in the amount of \$560,000 for Part 2 will be applied for in November 2016.

Grant Funding Request: \$750,000.00

Local Match: \$33,000.00 Funder: \$0

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Total Funding: \$783,000 Percentage of Local Match: 4.2%

Completion Timeframe: