

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Active Transportation Committee

Date: Monday, January 23, 2023

Time: 4 – 6 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams conference call meeting

Committee Members:

- ✓ Tammy McLemore, Dist. 1
- ✓ Gilbert Odonkor, Dist. 1
- ✓ Billy Binder, Dist. 2
- ✓ Jenny Ackerson, Dist. 2
- ✓ Laura Mitchell, Dist. 3
- ✓ Dave Carlson, Dist. 3
- Vacant, Dist. 4
- ✓ Haley Foydel, Dist. 4
- ✓ Lou Dzierzak, Dist. 5
- ✓ Courtney Costigan, Dist. 5
- Vacant, Dist. 6
- ✓ Lou Miranda, Dist. 6
- ✓ Greg Anderson, Dist. 7
- ✓ Lee Newman, Dist. 7

Ex-Officio Members:

- ✓ Dan Patterson, HC Public Works
- ✓ Arman Rajaeian, Metro Transit

Guests:

- ✓ Danny McCullough, Three Rivers
- ✓ Naveen Mallipaddi

Notes

- **Approval of the December 2022 minutes** **4:01 – 4:02**
 - Lee Newman moved to approve the December 2022 minutes; Dave Carlson seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

- **Three Rivers Park District 2023 projects and initiatives** **4:03 – 4:47**
 - Danny McCullough introduced himself to present on a federal grant opportunity and to highlight some of Three Rivers' activities over 2022.
 - Danny showed a map with six trail projects across Hennepin County. Three Rivers is looking for a resolution of support for a federal RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant application. The application is still being drafted, due in about a month and a half.
 - The infrastructure projects include:
 - Shingle Creek Regional Trail, upgrade sidewalk to multiuse trail.



- Eagle Lake Regional Trail from Maple Grove/Plymouth border south to Trunk Highway 55. Some of the trail exists, some would be new. It's a great north-south connection.
 - Basset Creek Regional trail in Golden Valley, Crystal and New Hope. Master plan in process; would be entirely new trail.
 - CP Rail Regional Trail (north end) would connection to Luce Line Regional Trail
 - CP Rail Regional Trail South
 - Medicine Lake Eagle Lake Regional Trail.
- Includes accessibility improvements, more than 100 curb ramps.
 - Improves six railroad crossings
 - Applying for more than \$22 million.
 - Theme is north-south connections. We have a lot of east-west trails. These link our great east-west trails together.
 - Lee Newman: I see that this is a \$22 million transportation improvement for 17 miles of trail. That seems like a lot of money for 17 miles. Danny McCullough: It does. A lot of this is reconstructing our existing network. For example, the Eagle Lake Regional Trail to Medicine Lake, a lot of that is already in place, but it needs reconstruction. A lot of these things were built 30 years ago, and like roadways, they don't have an infinite life. A million dollars a mile is about the going rate to build a trail through an existing urban environment. These prices are a little high to federalize it and with contingencies. We do budget a bit high, which doesn't mean we get to keep any extra, but it makes sure we have enough to complete the projects. When we reconstruct a trail, it's a full reconstruction, digging down and redoing it all. In some places we're adding curb, storm drainage. Concrete is not cheap.
 - Dave Carlson: These are hugely popular trails, I'm glad you're putting money into reconstruction. They're popular and they're often two-way or multiuse; could they be 12 feet or even 14 feet? They're so much easier and safer to use. Danny McCullough: We have looked at that, and on many of these it's really hard to do that. We try to minimize private property impacts. I'm a proponent of wider trails, but the only opportunity realistically is trails in our railroad corridors, where we do have a lot of space. Otherwise we're up against a lot of private property. We don't go down the road of eminent domain. Dave Carlson: I know you like to maintain boulevard between trails and roads, that might be an option without the expense.
 - Billy Binder: I heard there's going to be railroad abandonment under 100 just north of Glenwood Avenue, it goes under 55 near the school and Theodore Wirth Parkway. Is that on your radar, is that going to happen? Is Three Rivers ready to jump on that opportunity? Danny McCullough: I don't know a ton about that. I know two years ago we were made aware of that, a small segment, that didn't connect to anything. It wouldn't connect to anything in Theodore Wirth Park or infrastructure to the south. It was an isolated segment. We met with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and determined at the time it didn't make sense, especially at the price they wanted to sell it at. We're waiting until it's a longer segment. Billy: I would sure hate to see it sold into private property and cut up. At least it would be a very good local connection. Danny: Golden Valley has done a great job keeping us in the loop. I'm sure they'll let us know if something has changed.

- Lee Newman: On the railroad abandonment question, would Three Rivers or the state have right of first refusal? Danny McCullough: First would be Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and that's how we would find out about it. Then the interested parties would look at it together. There may be some conversations in the past few months that I'm not aware of. The segment didn't even go all the way through Theodore Wirth, maybe a mile. If the conversation's changed, I'd be happy to look into it if it's a longer segment.
- Greg Anderson: At the southern end of Medicine Lake, Eagle Lake Trail, at Highway 55, you were looking at a safer crossing, is that part of this grant? Danny: No, but you'll be happy to know the city of Plymouth is going to construct the crossing at TH 55. What you see in red is the Eagle Lake Regional Trail new trail and reconstructing existing city trail in bad condition. The city is building an underpass under TH 55 / Hopkins Crossroad to the transit hub. Greg: Beautiful. There's pedestrian traffic and bikes wanting to get through there. That will be a major safety enhancement. Danny: What we're proposing here will connect to that. Then the trail will continue south to Bryant Lake Park.
- Active Transportation Committee members reviewed a draft resolution supporting Three Rivers' RAISE grant application.
- Greg Anderson: I thought the draft resolution was sort of generic, I would like to mention a more specific list of what we're supporting.
- Courtney Costigan: I like the idea of us completing this resolution. I've learned on this committee. I think it'd be helpful to have a line in the resolution that Three Rivers will come back for feedback throughout the process. Greg Anderson: I don't know if we need that in here, we proactively work together.
- Dave Carlson: I think because this really is going as a resolution to the transportation committees and it's not really a generalized statement of how we interact with Three Rivers, while I agree it's good to have that cooperation I don't think it needs to be in here.
- Lee Newman moved to adopt the resolution, Courtney Costigan seconded the motion.
- The resolution passed on unanimous voice vote.
- Danny McCullough: Thank you. I don't know when we'll get the results, I imagine at least six months. I generally come at least twice a year or so, but I'll be sure to come back and let everyone know how we did. I'll make a note for August to be sure I check in with you all.
- Danny McCullough moved on to highlights from 2022 and what to expect in 2023: We're about 70 percent done with the long range plan for the CP Rail Regional Trail corridor. The southern part, that plan has been completed. In the next year we'll kick off planning in St. Louis Park, with outreach this summer. On the northern end, from Becker Park 81/ Bass Lake Road will be the terminus. We were looking at three options
 - 1. Straight down Douglas Avenue
 - 2. Down Winnetka Avenue
 - 3. Weaving through New Hope with existing trail, destinations and parks
 - Public overwhelmingly wants the weaving through parks and destinations option.
 - This segment is part of the RAISE grant application to construct this trail, which would happen around 2026/2027 or so.
 - Still need full approval from all the cities but we're almost there.
- Diamond Lake Regional Trail in Dayton/Rogers/Corcoran/Medina/Maple Plain/Orono. We have a final route resolution. No funding to build it; it will be a while.

- One of the interesting things, it uses the existing Independence Trail to the Luce Line Trail with what we call the Wayzata connection to downtown Wayzata. The connector I'm hoping to build in the next five or six years. I don't think we'll need grant funding for that.
- Three Rivers was awarded funding for four projects in the regional solicitation with 2026/2027 construction years:
 - Bryant Lake Regional Trail Eagle Lake Trail. We were awarded regional solicitation funding from TH 55 south down CSAH 73. We will reconstruct some of the existing trail through the Ridgedale area, then bring existing trail on Plymouth Road up to standard.
 - At Minnetonka Boulevard we were awarded Bryant Lake Regional Trail construction, brand new trail along Baker Road in Minnetonka to Bryant Lake Regional Park.
 - Short segment of 9-mile creek regional trail, Excelsior Boulevard Minnesota River Bluffs along 11th Ave S. Sidewalk is narrow in places, some trail that's falling apart. Construct down to 7th St. S. to connect to 9-mile Creek Regional Trail.
 - Reconstruct Shingle Creek Regional Trail in Brooklyn Center. Parts of the trail are over 30 years. Reconstructs a huge piece, from Minneapolis border up through Palmer Lake Park. A section that floods every spring or large-scale rains. We're moving the trail out of the floodplain so it's not under water two months of the year.
- Lee Newman: Thank you. Going back to the proposed trail through Crystal/Golden Valley. I want to submit to the group that I love this route. I like riding through quieter neighborhoods, quieter areas. This certainly would fulfill that. Danny McCullough: this was a great project. We talked to a ton of people who live in these cities. We were out all summer. This was by far the most popular route. A lot of people in this area walk, and they wanted a quieter place to walk away from busier roads.
- Greg Anderson: on Eagle Lake, the 63rd Avenue Trail. Currently that's a gravel road. What's going to happen with the gravel road, will that be combined into one project or coordinated somehow? Danny McCullough: The project would join up with Hemlock. It is a gravel road, we don't know exactly what's going to happen in the area. We're doing a long-range plan next year for the entire park. That will determine the route for the trail. We have a lot of big ideas, including access to fishing. We actually want to get rid of the gravel road and just have maintenance access and fishing access. But to be determined. There's a lot to look at still. Greg Anderson: It's nice to drive in with your kayak to the lake and not having to haul it in.
- Tammy McLemore: Kudos for getting funding for Shingle Creek, I've had lots of wet socks riding through there. Kudos also for the fitness equipment behind the community center, a lot of people use that. Danny McCullough: This is one of my favorite trails, I ride it a lot. Greg Anderson: Does that include a new bridge over 94? Danny: No, but it includes approaches. On the south side it has a corkscrew kind of ramp to the crossing. We're looking at improving that, getting rid of that. The bridge is a MnDOT structure and we're not going to touch that. It's a really expensive bridge, it's not on MnDOT's replacement schedule for a long time. To save a little money, we said let's just improve the approaches and make it a little more inviting. In the future we'll look at the span with MnDOT.

- **Member Announcements** **4:47 – 4:49**
 - Dave Carlson: On February 9 the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota is having their annual legislative day. The morning is a bunch of speakers and tips on how to talk to your legislators and the afternoon is for talking to your reps and senators. It's a critical time, too, with funding coming up.

- **Adjournment** **4:50**
 - Lee Newman moved to adjourn the meeting. Tammy McLemore seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting:
February 27 | 4 – 6 p.m.
Remote via Microsoft Teams