



Southwest Regional Trail and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendments, Carver County

Business Item 2023-9

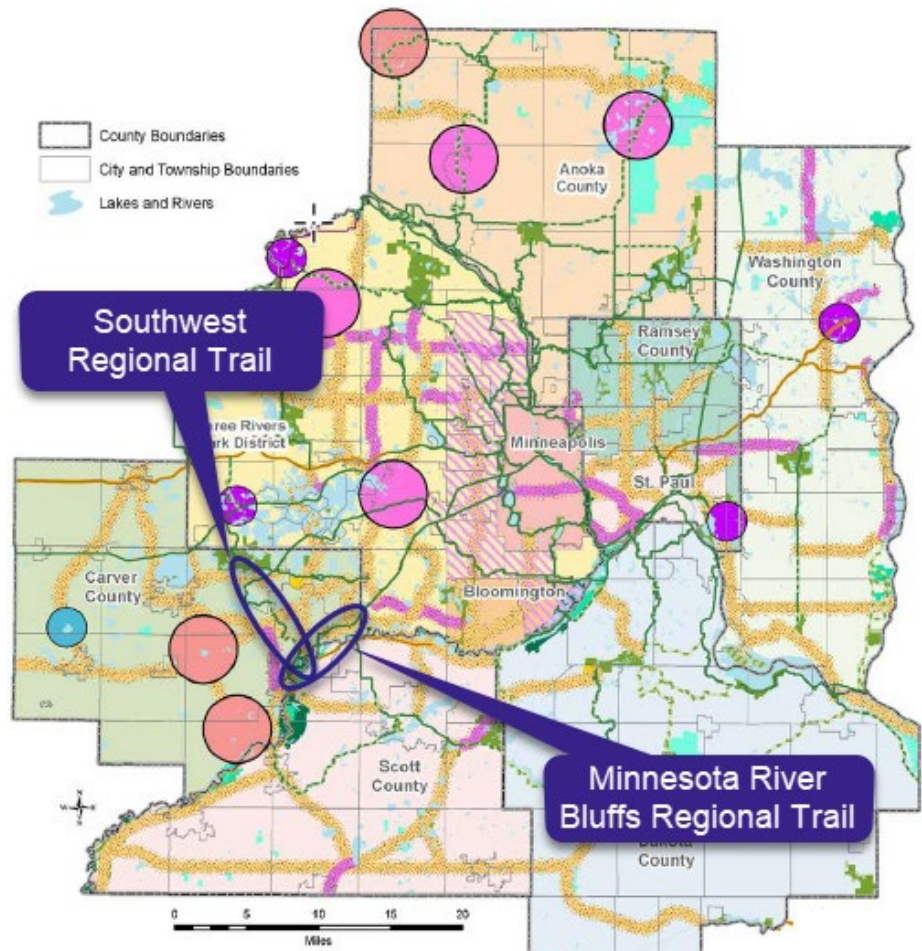
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner

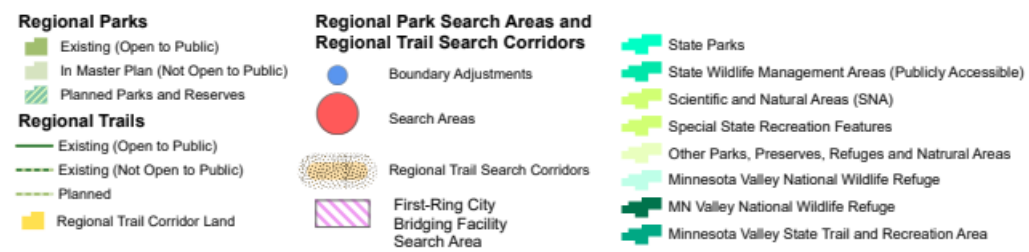
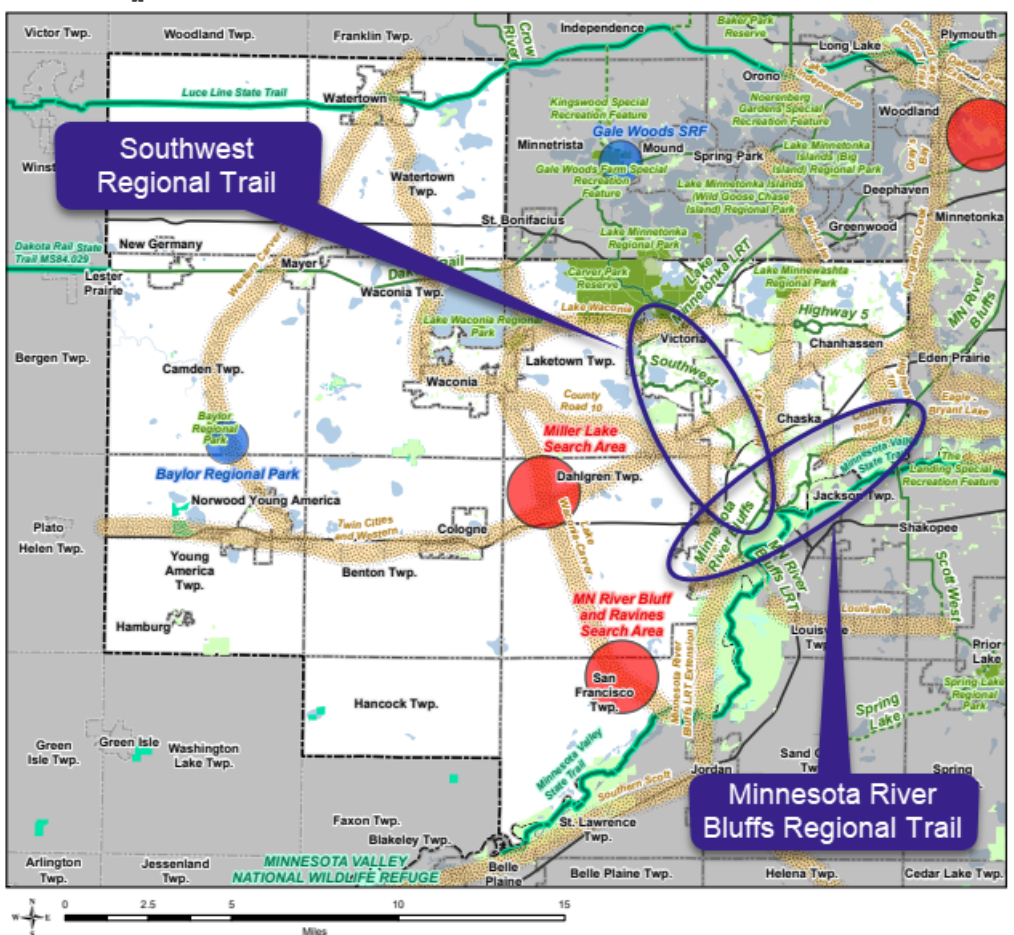
January 5, 2023



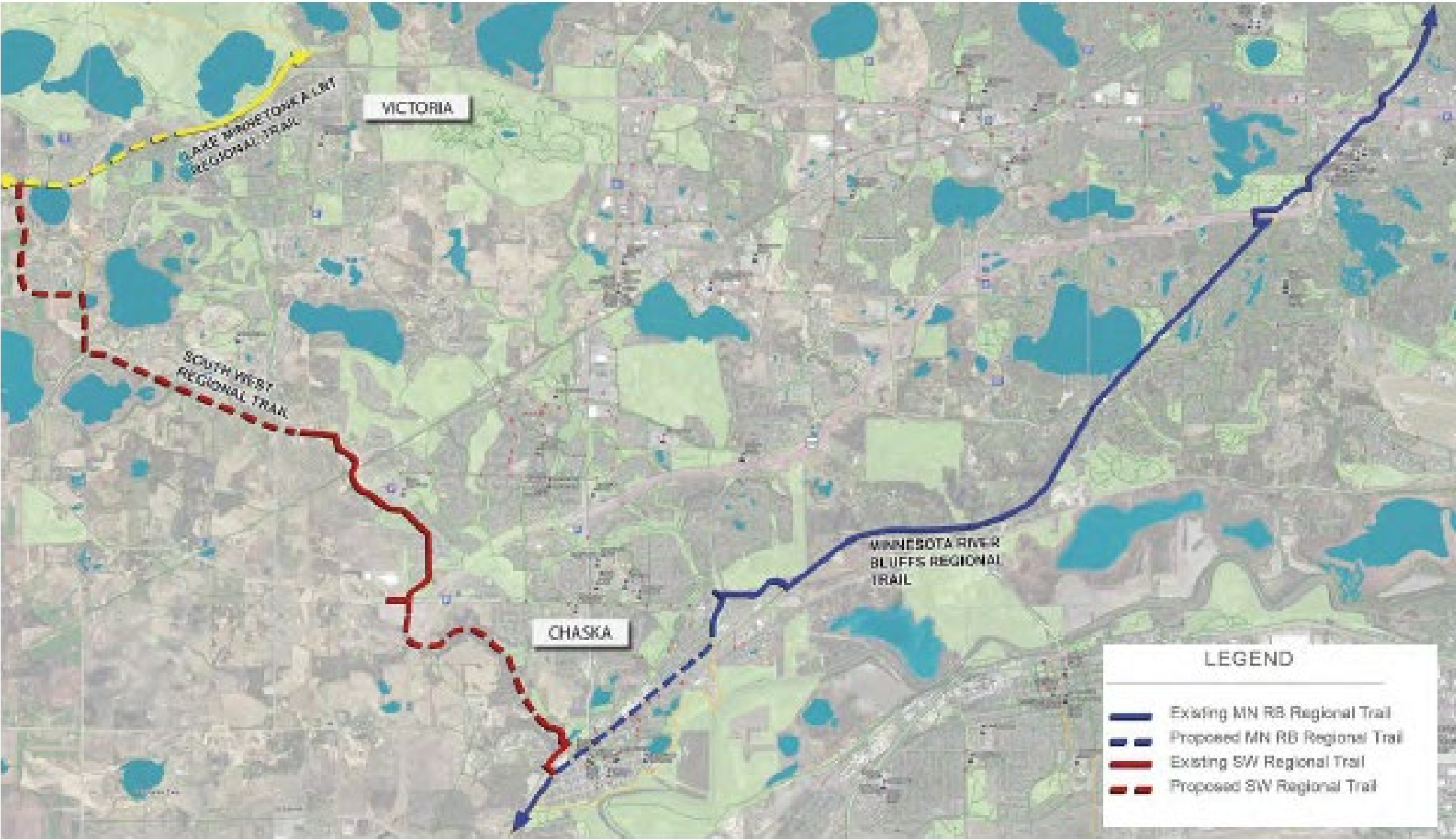
Southwest Regional Trail and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail



Regional Park Systems Carver County



Southwest Regional Trail and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail



Equity Analysis

Project Data

The long-range plan considered populations within approximately 1-mile of the Southwest and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trails.

Public Engagement

The pop-up events were mainly held in Chaska to engage populations of Hispanic, low income, and people without vehicles.

In July 2021, Carver County engaged residents at the Riverview Terrace Manufactured Home Community in Chaska.

Comment Highlights

- Lack of awareness of two trail systems
- Safety Concerns along the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail due to lack of visibility and steep areas.
- Connecting to businesses (e.g., McDonald's) and other destinations valued.
- To increase awareness of two trails, create bike safety programs, maps, and social media.

How Advice Shaped the Plan

- Realigned the Minnesota Regional Trail along County Road 61 to more directly connect underserved populations to goods, services, and recreation.
- Improved the connectivity of the Southwest Regional Trail for communities.
- Continued implementation of programs and outreach efforts.
- Improved wayfinding program for awareness and placemaking.

Public and Partner Engagement

Partner Engagement

Carver County Parks engaged the cities of Victoria and Chaska and Chanhassen to shape the long-range plan.

Public Engagement

Minnesota Bluffs Regional Trail - Themes

- Important trail for both recreation and transportation.
- Both youth and adults noted frequent use of the trail from Chaska to Carver.
- Trail seems unsafe since it is wooded, lacks visibility and has steep embankments.

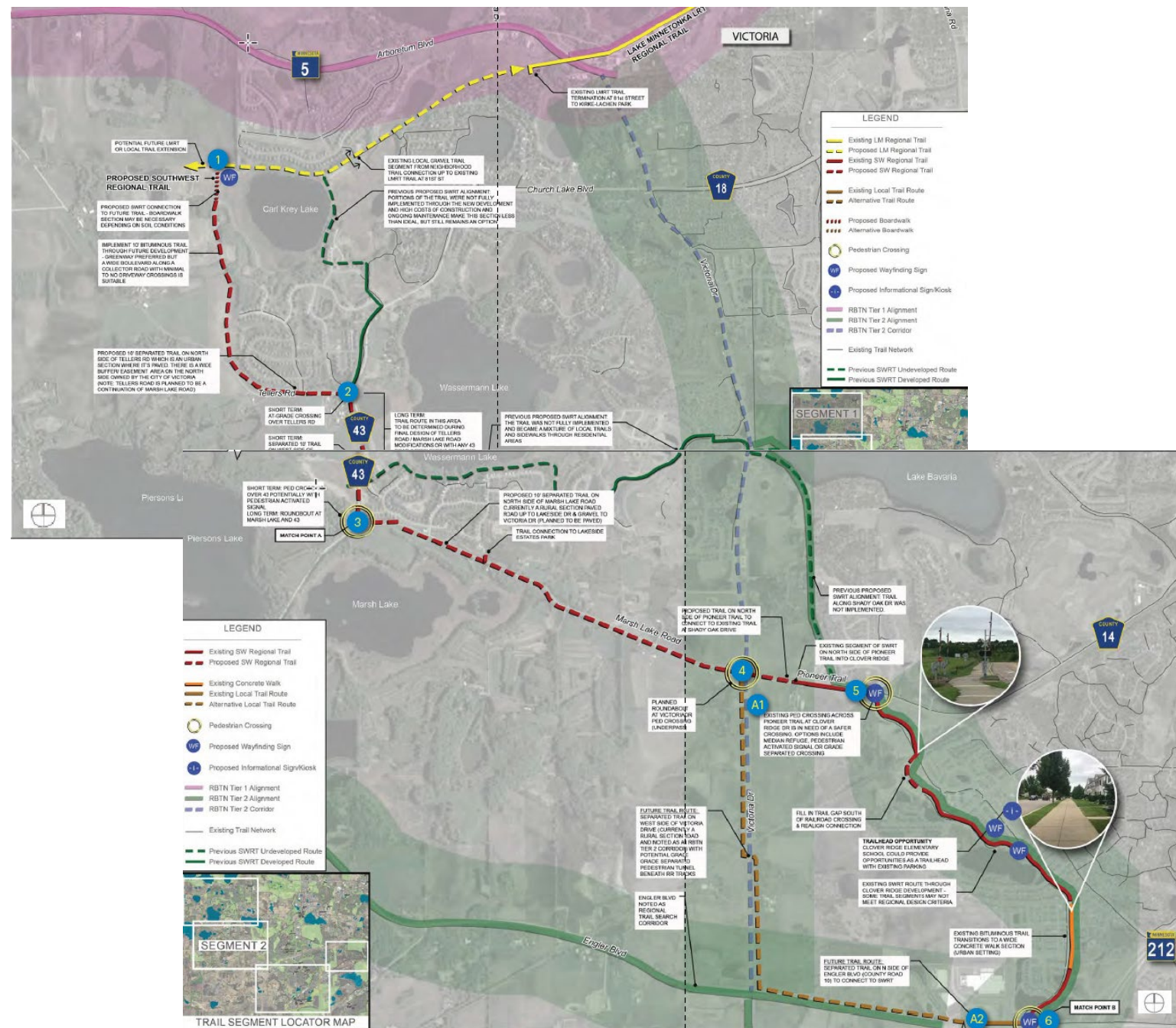
Southwest Regional Trail - Themes

- People value connection to the City of Victoria to access new businesses and developments.
- Many not aware of trail systems within community.
- Desire for better maps so users feel safer exploring trails without getting lost.



Images from Carver County's engagement activities.

Southwest Regional Trail – Development Concept



Segment 1

- New trail connection from Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail to Marsh Lake Road
- Long term plans for the County Road 43 crossing include a roundabout.

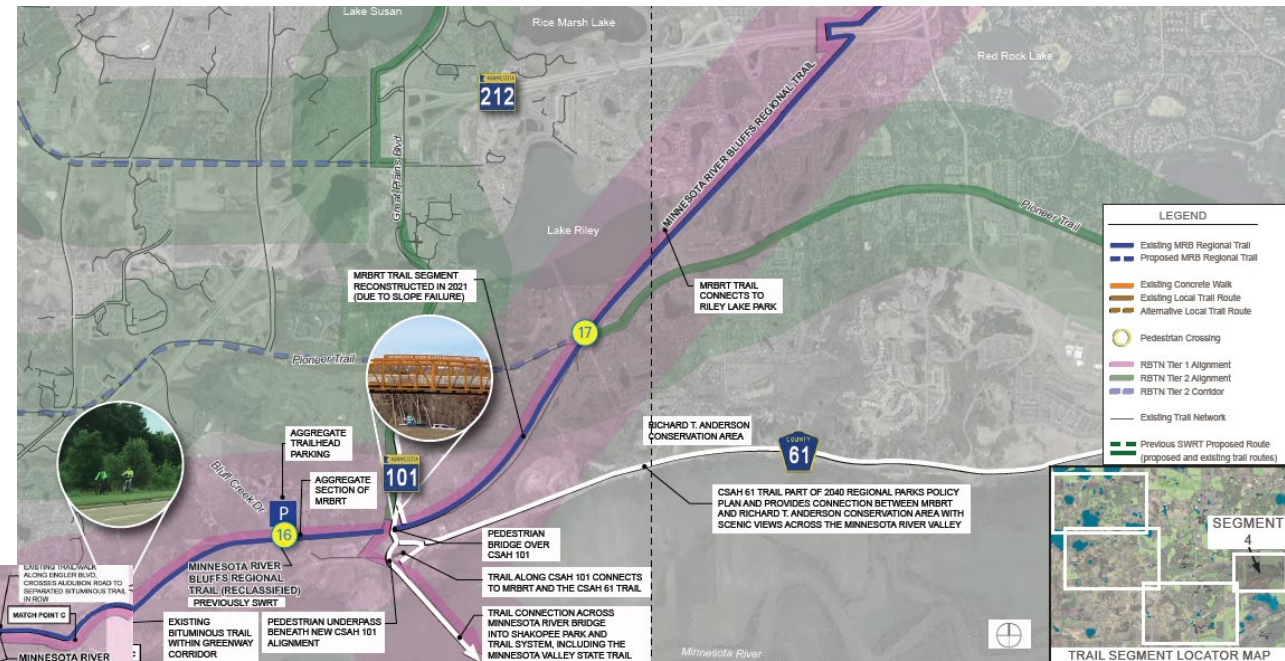
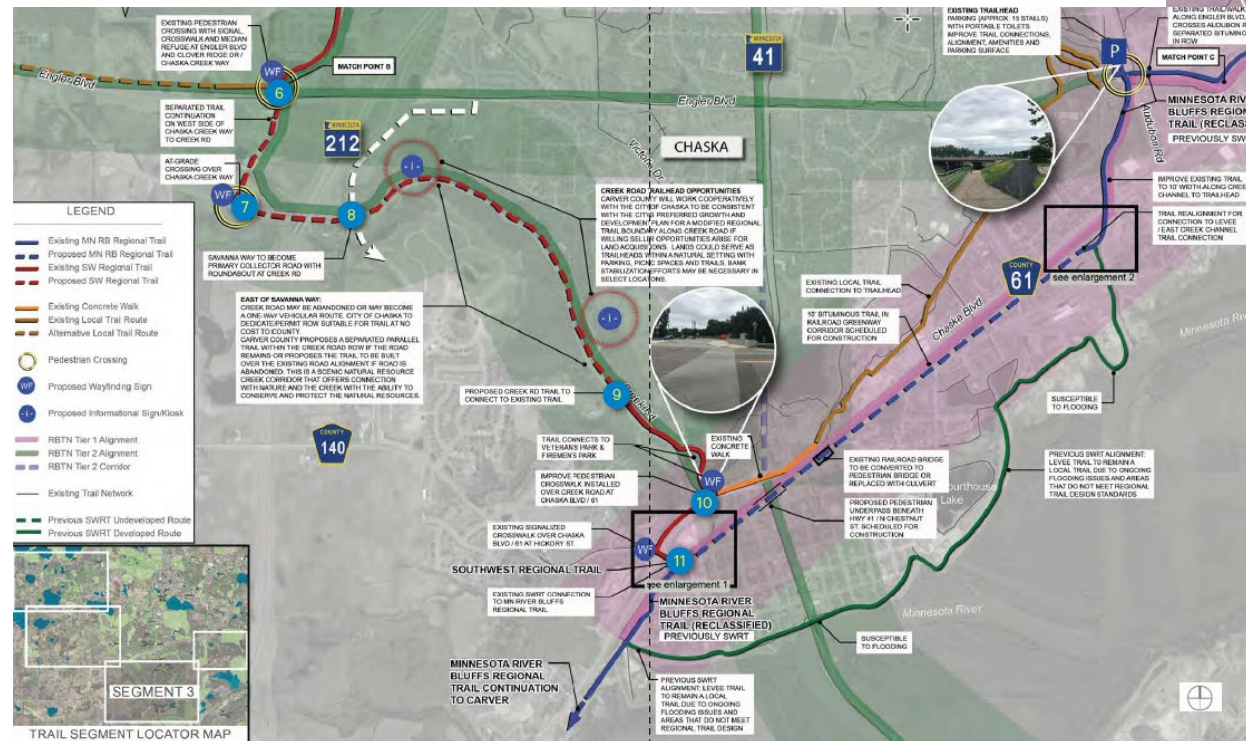
Segment 2

- Segment 2 includes existing and new portions of trail.
- Additional crosswalks
- Trailhead opportunity is sited for the Cloverhead Elementary School

Southwest and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trails – Development Concept

Segment 3

- Southwest Regional Trail connects from Chaska Creek Way with a new trail south of Engler Boulevard and Creek Road.
- A trailhead is planned at Creek Road.
- Southwest Regional Trail connects to the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail at Hickory Street with a signalized crosswalk.



Segment 4

- Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail extends northeast on a new trail within railroad right-of-way along Chaska Boulevard/ County Road.
- The trail crosses Highway 41/North Chestnut Street through underpass then continues to existing trail segment on Audubon Road.

Costs

The total cost to complete the long-range plan is approximately \$14,500,000 including \$7,400,000 for development, \$7,100,000 for acquisition, and \$46,000 annually for operations and maintenance.

Southwest Regional Trail and Minnesota River Bluffs Costs

Regional Trail	Development Costs	Acquisition Costs	Maintenance
Southwest Regional Trail	\$5,015,600	\$2,459,200	\$16,000
Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail	\$2,407,000	\$4,620,000	\$30,000
Total	\$7,422,600	7,079,200	\$46,000

Rationale for Proposed Action



The Southwest Regional Trail and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendments are consistent with the requirements of the:

- 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
 - Chapter 5, Planning, Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies

A view of a regional trail boardwalk in Carver County.

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the Southwest Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment.
- Approve the Minnesota River Bluffs Long-Range Plan Amendment.
- Require Carver County, prior to initiating any construction of new or updating of existing paths, trails, bridges, or any other construction project, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.



A view of a paved regional trail in Carver County.



Thank you

Tracey Kinney

Senior Planner, Community Development



A view of children biking on a regional trail in Carver County.