

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: January 5, 2023

Topic

Summit Avenue Regional Trail Long Range Plan, Council Information and Consultation, City of Saint Paul

District(s), Member(s):	District G, Anthony Taylor District 14, Kris Fredson and District 13, Chai Lee
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.313; <i>2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan</i> : Chapter 5, Planning
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029)
Division/Department:	Community Development

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

Background

Alice Messer, Manager – Design and Construction Division and Mary Norton, Landscape Architect and Project Manager with the City of Saint Paul will discuss the long-range planning effort that is currently underway for the City of Saint Paul’s Summit Avenue Regional Trail and consult with MPOSC on the project.

Summit Avenue is a search corridor that is centrally located in the Regional Parks System on the western side of downtown Saint Paul. The search corridor runs along Summit Avenue from the Mississippi Gorge Regional Park to Kellogg Boulevard, then onto Eagle Parkway where the trail connects to the Samuel Morgan Regional Trail at Shepard Road and the Mississippi River. The 4.7-mile Summit Avenue parkway segment dates back to the 1880s and consists of generous green spaces with mature trees interwoven through a roadway with an existing on-street bicycle lane. The 0.75-mile Kellogg Boulevard segment consists of urban streetscape and an existing multi-use trail along Eagle Parkway to Shepard Road.

The project explores numerous complexities from technical issues such as roadway geometry and transition areas to minimizing impacts to mature trees along the route. There is an on-going, robust public engagement process with voices in both support and opposition to the trail plan. Project staff are continuing to develop a regional trail approach that sets a framework for future decision-making while balancing multiple perspectives and concerns. The design seeks to balance competing interests and limit impacts as much as possible. The segments along Kellogg Boulevard and Eagle Parkway would follow plans developed during the Capital City Bikeway planning process and would utilize the existing multi-use trail along Eagle Parkway.

The City is currently evaluating comments received from the 60% complete design comment period. They are revising the design to address key concerns raised by stakeholders, as they work to complete the 90% draft document planned for release in February 2023. The City plans to bring the final plan to the Metropolitan Council for consideration in summer 2023. The Council will review the plan against the requirements contained in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, particularly Chapter 5.