

# Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail, Scott County

Business Item 2024-306

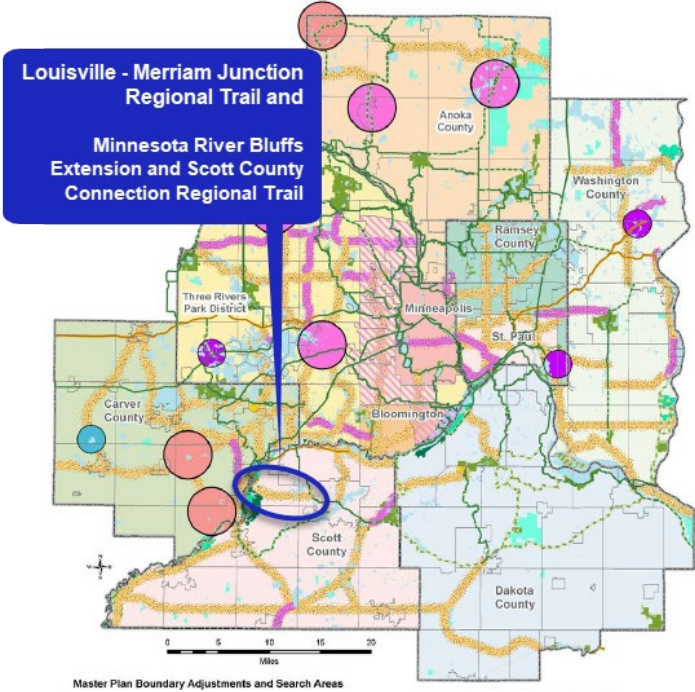
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



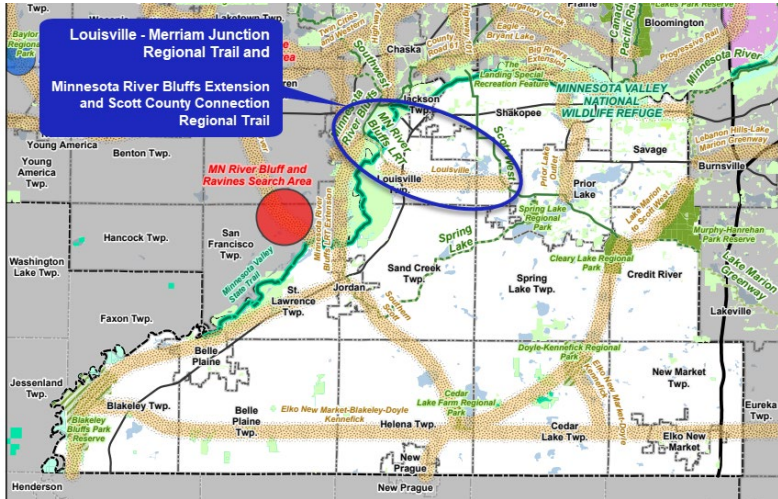
November 7, 2024

Tracey Kinney, Planning Analyst

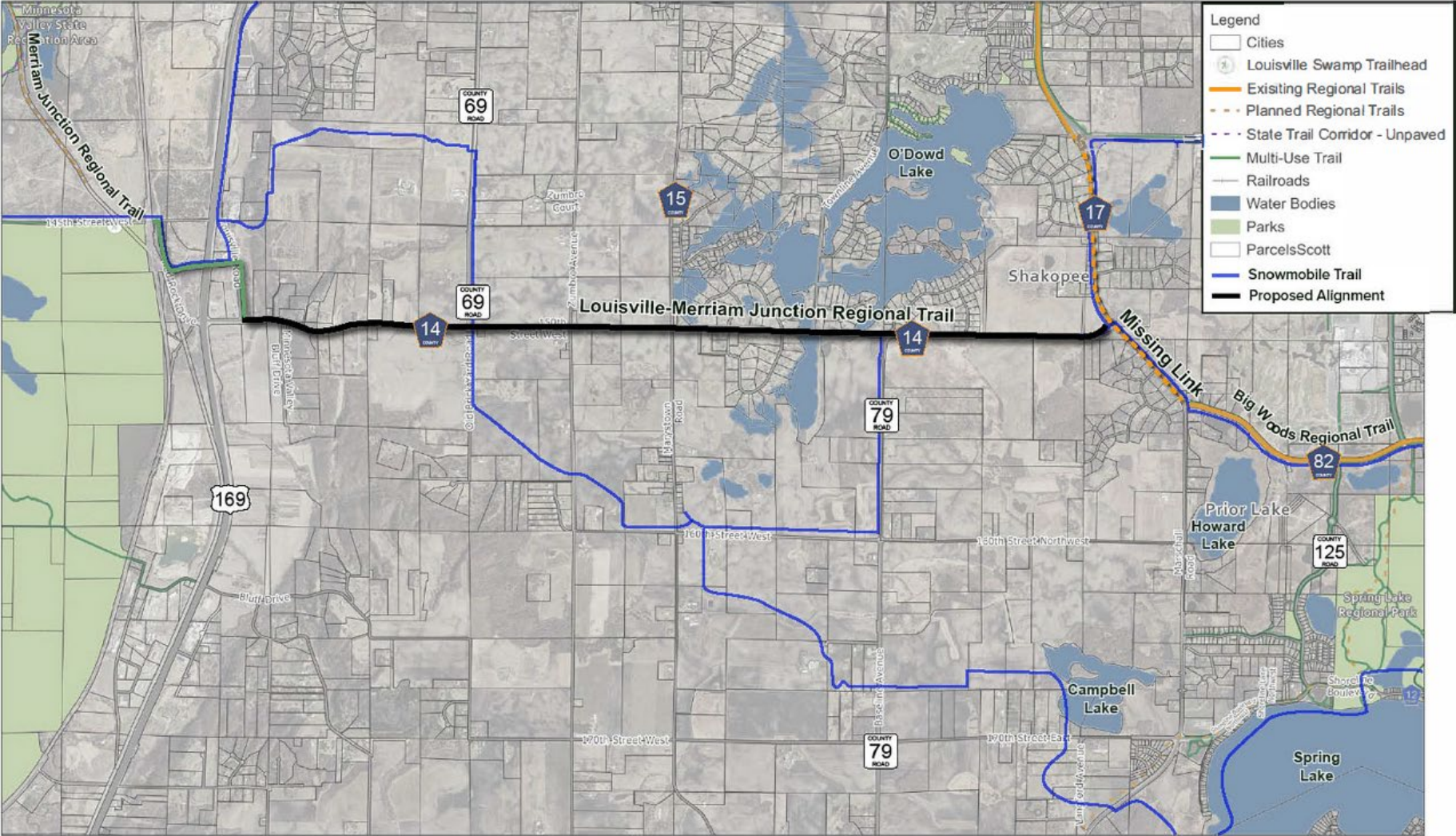
# Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail Long-Range Plan



7-County Region



Scott County



Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail

# Equity Analysis

## Focused Engagements:

- **International Walking Club Walk Around the World:** an international community event in Shakopee supporting diverse communities of color and new English learners
- **Scott County Fair:** serving all residents of Scott County and particularly engaging with families and County youth
- **Celebrate Jordan:** a community open house that showcases businesses and organizations that specifically provide opportunities and assistance for families and residents located in the Southwest portion of the County (near Belle Plaine)

## Advice Shaped the Plan:

Visitors value trails for:

- Great scenery
- Recreation
- Health and exercise
- Time with family



*Plan engagement events.*

# Public and Partner Engagement



## Public Engagement Themes

- Connect the trail to parks and places
- Add safe off-road places for residents to walk and bike
- Reduce environmental impacts of trails
- Reduce potential impacts to private property in the trail corridor
- Increase trail safety along roads and at crossings
- Reduce trail costs

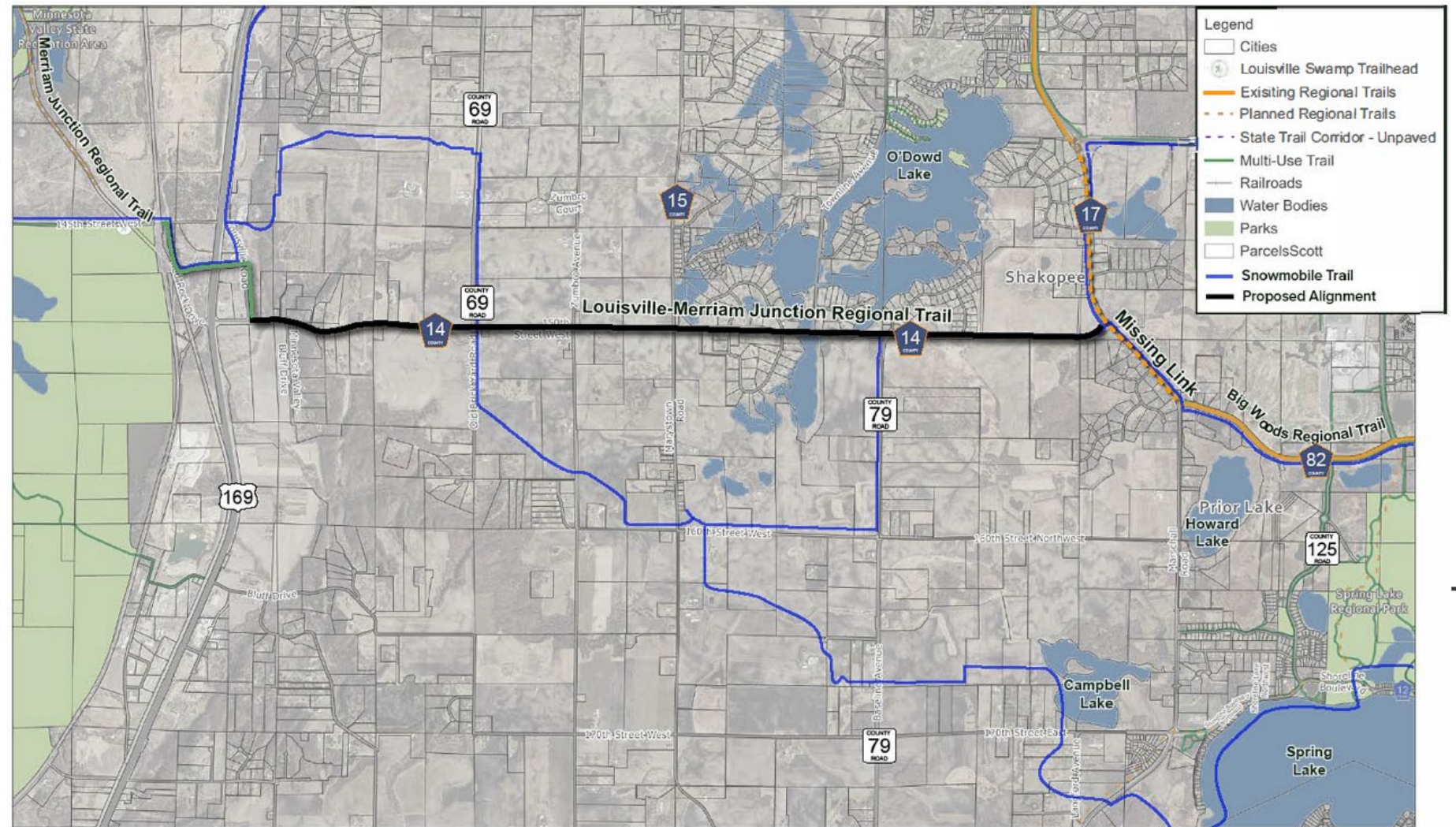
## Partner Engagement

**Agencies Engaged:** Louisville Township, Jackson Township, Sand Creek Township, and Spring Lake Township, City of Shakopee City of Prior Lake, and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

*Lake adjacent to the Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail.*

# Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail Boundaries and Acquisitions

- 5.28-mile two-way, multi-use, road-separated trail
- Located with a 20-30-foot corridor adjacent to the County Road 14 right-of-way
- Easement acquisitions of 38 inholdings spanning 9.67-acres
- Includes plans for safe road and wetland crossings



Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail

# Minnesota River Bluffs Extension and Scott County Connection Regional Trail – 0.20-mile Extension

- 0.20-mile extension located within the Scott County-owned Road right-of-way
- Includes the existing trailhead at US Fish & Wildlife Louisville Swamp Refuge Unit parking lot in Louisville Township
- Connects to the existing portion of the Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail
- No acquisitions needed

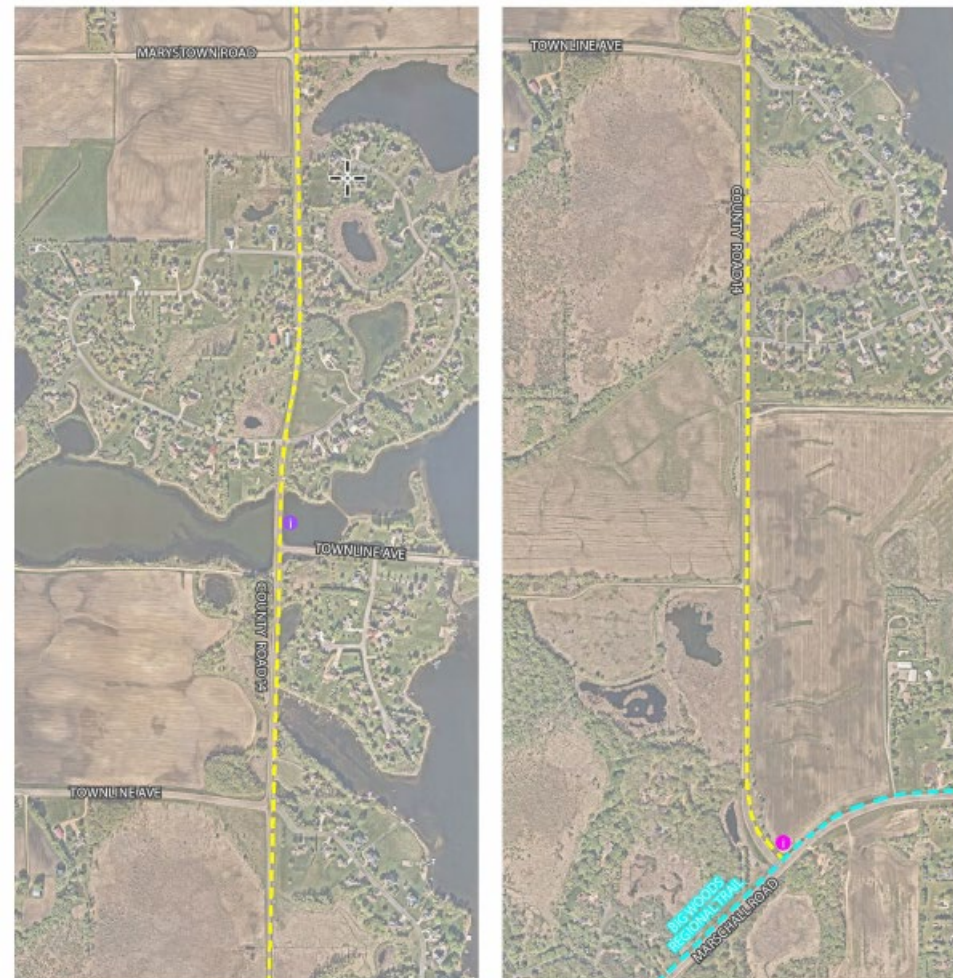


Minnesota River Bluffs Extension and Scott County Connection Regional Trail and Existing Merriam Junction Regional Trail Crossing

# Development Concept – Trail Segments



Segment 1



Segment 2

## Segment 1

- 3.03 miles (.9 miles of existing trail and 2.13 miles of new trail)
- Connects to the western trailhead
- Extends east along County Road 14 to Marystown Road

## Segment 2

- 2.25 miles of new trail
- Extends east from Marystown Road to the Big Woods Regional Trail
- Trail passes between Schneider Lake and Thole Lake.

# Estimated Costs



## Louisville – Merriam Junction Regional Trail

Total cost: **\$10.3 million**

- Development: \$1.2 million
- Acquisitions: \$9 million
- Operations and maintenance: **\$31,680 annually**

## Minnesota River Bluffs Extension and Scott County Connector Regional Trail – 0.20-mile Extension

Total cost: **\$200,000**

- Development: \$200,000
- Acquisitions: \$0.00
- Operations and maintenance: **\$1,200 annually**



# Rationale for Proposed Action

The trail plans are consistent with the requirements of the:

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



# Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Louisville-Merriam Junction Regional Trail Long-Range Plan (future Merriam Junction Regional Trail).
2. Approve the 0.20-miles trail extension of the Minnesota River Bluffs Extension and Scott County Connection Regional Trail (future Merriam Junction Regional Trail) amending the long-range plan to provide a seamless connection to the Louisville-Merriam Junction Regional Trail.
3. Advise the County to consider implementing the recommendations for the Met Council's wastewater, water, and the regional bicycle transportation network in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.



Thank you

**Tracey Kinney**

Planning Analyst, Community Development



*Looking north at Thole Lake along Highway 14.*