

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: March 5, 2013

For the Community Development Committee meeting of March 18, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 27, 2013

Subject: Reimbursement consideration for I-35 W bridge for Central Anoka County Regional Trail, Anoka County

District(s), Member(s): Metropolitan Parks & Open Space Commission District F, Daniel Schlaferman

Policy/Legal Reference: Finance Strategy 6 of 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan as amended July 25, 2012

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tori Dupre, Sr. Planner-Regional Parks and Natural Resources (Ph. 651-602-1621)

Division/Department: Community Development Division

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Anoka County up to \$250,000 from its share of a future Regional Park Capital Improvement Program, funded through the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, for construction of a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 35W in the City of Lino Lakes for the Central Anoka County Regional Trail. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Background

This trail reimbursement request is for a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 35W in the City of Lino Lakes for the Central Anoka County Regional Trail. The Central Anoka County Regional Trail follows CSAH 14/Main Street through Lino Lakes and Centerville. Currently, there is a two lane vehicular bridge over the freeway with no shoulder or sidewalk to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. This pedestrian bridge would provide a safe crossing over Interstate 35W and overcome a large barrier to accessing the regional parks and trails system. Construction of the pedestrian bridge is anticipated to occur in 2013. See **Attachment 1, Letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County** which includes a map showing the location of the trail and proposed bridge.

Rationale

Finance Strategy 6 of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* states:

Finance Strategy 6: Reimbursement

"...Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan; that all information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project; and that the Council approves the project..."

This request is consistent with the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost for the construction of the pedestrian bridge over I-35W for the Central Anoka County Regional Trail is consistent with the master plan for this trail approved by the Council in 1999 and amended in 2007.
2. Sufficient information has been submitted in this request regarding what would be financed with a Council grant to meet the requirements of Finance Strategy 6. In this case, that information is contained in the County's letter **Attachment 1**.
3. Anoka County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for County expenditures on these projects prior to undertaking it.

The timing of when Anoka County is reimbursed for any portion of the \$250,000 is dependent on when funds are provided in a future Regional Park Capital Improvement Program. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that a reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Funding

The total cost of the project is \$1,220,549. Anoka County is receiving \$263,813 in federal funds for this project. The County will provide the remaining amount of \$956,736. Of the \$956,736 remaining, Anoka County requests reimbursement consideration for construction costs up to \$250,000 from its share of a future Regional Parks CIP funded with Parks and Trail Legacy appropriations.

Known Support / Opposition

The request is consistent with is consistent with the terms of Finance Strategy 6 in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. There is no known opposition to the request.

Attachment 1, Letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County.



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

January 28, 2013

Arne Stefferud, Manager, Regional Park and Natural Resources
Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Reimbursement Request for Future Parks and Trail Legacy Funds for Regional Trail Construction

Dear Arne:

As you are aware, the Metropolitan Council recently approved Anoka County's request for future reimbursement for three trail projects in the regional system. The County now has an additional request for future trail construction cost reimbursement.

This trail reimbursement request is for a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 35W in the City of Lino Lakes for the Central Anoka County Regional Trail. The Central Anoka County Regional Trail follows CSAH 14/Main Street through Lino Lakes and Centerville. Currently, there is a two lane vehicular bridge over the freeway with no shoulder or sidewalk to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. This pedestrian bridge would provide a safe crossing over Interstate 35W and overcome a large barrier to accessing the regional parks and trails system.

The total cost of the project is \$1,220,549. The County is receiving \$263,813 in federal funds for this project. The County will provide the remaining amount of \$956,736. Of the \$956,736 remaining, Anoka County would like to request reimbursement of construction costs up to \$250,000 from a future Parks and Trail Legacy grant. Construction of the pedestrian bridge is anticipated to occur in 2013.

This project is consistent with the Central Anoka County Regional Trail master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council in 1999 and amended in 2007.

I am enclosing a map that shows the location of the trail project for your reference.

This reimbursement request is being submitted for Metropolitan Council consideration under applicable portions of Finance Strategy 6 in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy as amended on July 25, 2012.

OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES

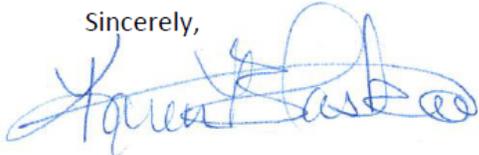
Phone: 763.757.3920

www.anokacountyparks.com

Fax: 763.755.0230

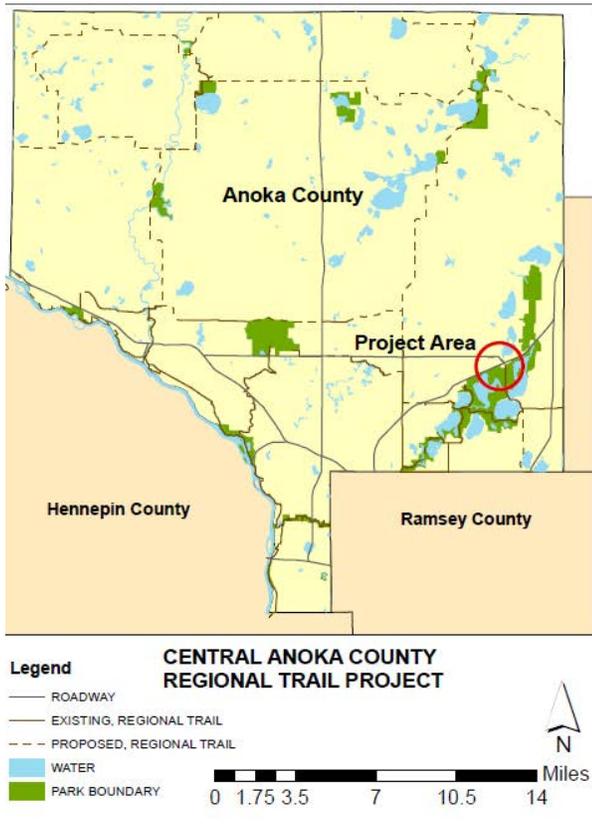
If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 763-767-2865 or karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Blaska", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Karen Blaska
Park Planner

cc: John VonDeLinde, Director



CENTRAL ANOKA COUNTY REGIONAL TRAIL PROJECT - FUTURE COST REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

