

**ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2016-15**

**DATE:** February 5, 2016  
**TO:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**FROM:** Technical Advisory Committee  
**PREPARED BY:** Steven Elmer, Planning Analyst, (651) 602-1756  
**SUBJECT:** Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN)  
Change Requests  
**REQUESTED ACTION:** Dakota County requests that specific Tier 1 and Tier 2 alignments be designated on the Met Council's on-line, interactive RBTN map for use in the 2016 Regional Solicitation.  
**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That TAB approve the Met Council's on-line, interactive RBTN map with changes requested by Dakota County, for use in the 2016 Regional Solicitation.

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:**

The Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) was developed through a Regional Bicycle System Study conducted in 2013 – 2014 and later adopted by the Met Council as the official regional bicycle network in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). The goal of the RBTN is to establish an integrated seamless network of on-street bikeways and off-road trails to most effectively improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level and to encourage planning and implementation of future bikeways by cities, counties, parks agencies, and the state, in support of the regional network vision.

The Met Council is the responsible government agency to designate the various corridors and alignments through the development and adoption of the TPP. In order to provide the best opportunity for local jurisdictions to implement the RBTN through the regional solicitation process, the Council notified local governments in November of this opportunity to request minor refinements to the RBTN map. The following specific types of administrative or technical change requests were accepted for consideration at this time:

- A. Designating an official alignment within an established Tier 1 or Tier 2 corridor;
- B. Establishing a designated alignment that parallels and is within ½-mile of an established Tier 1 or Tier 2 corridor;
- C. Moving a designated Tier 1 or Tier 2 alignment to a parallel location within ½-mile of the original alignment.

The Met Council received two requests for changes to the RBTN map and each is described below:

- 1) Dakota County is requesting that CSAH 38 (McAndrews Road) be designated as the official Tier 2 alignment for the RBTN Tier 2 corridor between Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville and TH 3 in Rosemount. This proposed change would be an administrative revision, as defined in the 2040 TPP, that identifies a more specific alignment within what is shown as a conceptual one-mile wide corridor in the TPP (see attached Map A).

- 2) Dakota County is requesting that a Tier 1 alignment be designated to replace the north-south RBTN Tier 1 corridor centered along Galaxie Avenue between CSAH 42 in Apple Valley and CSAH 32 in Eagan (see attached Map B). The proposed alignment would lie approximately 1/8<sup>th</sup> to 1/2-mile east of the established Tier 1 corridor; it would parallel the Tier 1 corridor and would follow Flagstaff Avenue and Johnny Cake Ridge Road.

**RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY:**

The RBTN was adopted into the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan in January 2015. The RBTN sets the region's priorities for bicycle planning and investment.

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

Staff reviewed each request to determine how the regional intent of the original RBTN corridor or alignment was maintained, improved, or impacted.

**Change Request #1: *Designate Dakota County State Aid Highway 38 as the Tier 2 alignment for the existing Tier 2 corridor between Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville and TH 3 in Rosemount.***

The review and analysis for this proposed change resulted in the following findings:

- All of the criteria were met regarding the original RBTN corridor directional orientation and proximity to the proposed alignment, and regarding support within local plans.
- All criteria were met with regard to the RBTN guidelines established in the 2040 TPP for designating RBTN corridors and alignments.

As a result of this review and analysis, staff recommends accepting the request to designate CSAH 38 as the official RBTN Tier 2 alignment between Nicollet Avenue and TH 3.

**Change Request #2: *Designate a Tier 1 alignment approximately 1/8<sup>th</sup> to 1/2-mile east of and generally parallel to the north-south RBTN Tier 1 corridor centered along Galaxie Avenue between CSAH 42 and CSAH 32 in Dakota County.***

The review and analysis for this proposed change resulted in the following findings:

- All of the criteria were met regarding the original RBTN corridor directional orientation and proximity to the proposed alignment, and regarding support within local plans.
- All but one criteria were met with regard to the RBTN guidelines established in the 2040 TPP for designating RBTN corridors and alignments.
- One criterion, "follow spacing guidelines that reflect established development and transportation patterns" was partially met. Although the original spacing of the RBTN corridors/alignments is narrowed, the proposed alignment improves direct connections to a major high school and other regional destinations that would increase potential bicycle travel compared to the expected demand within the original corridor.

As a result of this review and analysis, staff recommends accepting the request to designate a Tier 1 alignment east of and generally parallel to the existing north-south RBTN Tier 1 corridor centered along Galaxie Avenue in Dakota County.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION:** At its January 14, 2016, meeting, TAC Planning recommended adoption of the updated map for use in the Regional Solicitation.

At its February 3, 2016, meeting, TAC recommended adoption of the updated map for use in the Regional Solicitation.

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**ROUTING**

| <b>TO</b>                     | <b>ACTION REQUESTED</b> | <b>DATE COMPLETED</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| TAC Planning Committee        | Review & Recommend      | January 14, 2016      |
| Technical Advisory Committee  | Review & Recommend      | February 3, 2016      |
| Transportation Advisory Board | Review & Approve        |                       |

## **DAKOTA COUNTY**

### **RBTN Change Request A: Designate CSAH 38 (McAndrews Road) as an RBTN 2 official alignment**

The proposed designation of CSAH 38 as a Tier 2 Alignment addresses the following. (See Attachment 2)

#### **Proposed Change Map**

- Aligns with both Apple Valley and Rosemount Bicycle Pedestrian Plans
- Aligns with Dakota County Regional Trail System Plan
- Connects Regional Destinations including Minnesota Zoo, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Burnsville Center, Cedar BRT, North Creek Regional Greenway, Rosemount Regional Greenway

# Map A

Attachment C

BURNSVILLE

EAGAN

Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Minnesota Zoo

ROSEMOUNT

APPLE VALLEY

Eastview HS

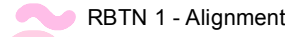




North Creek Regional Greenway

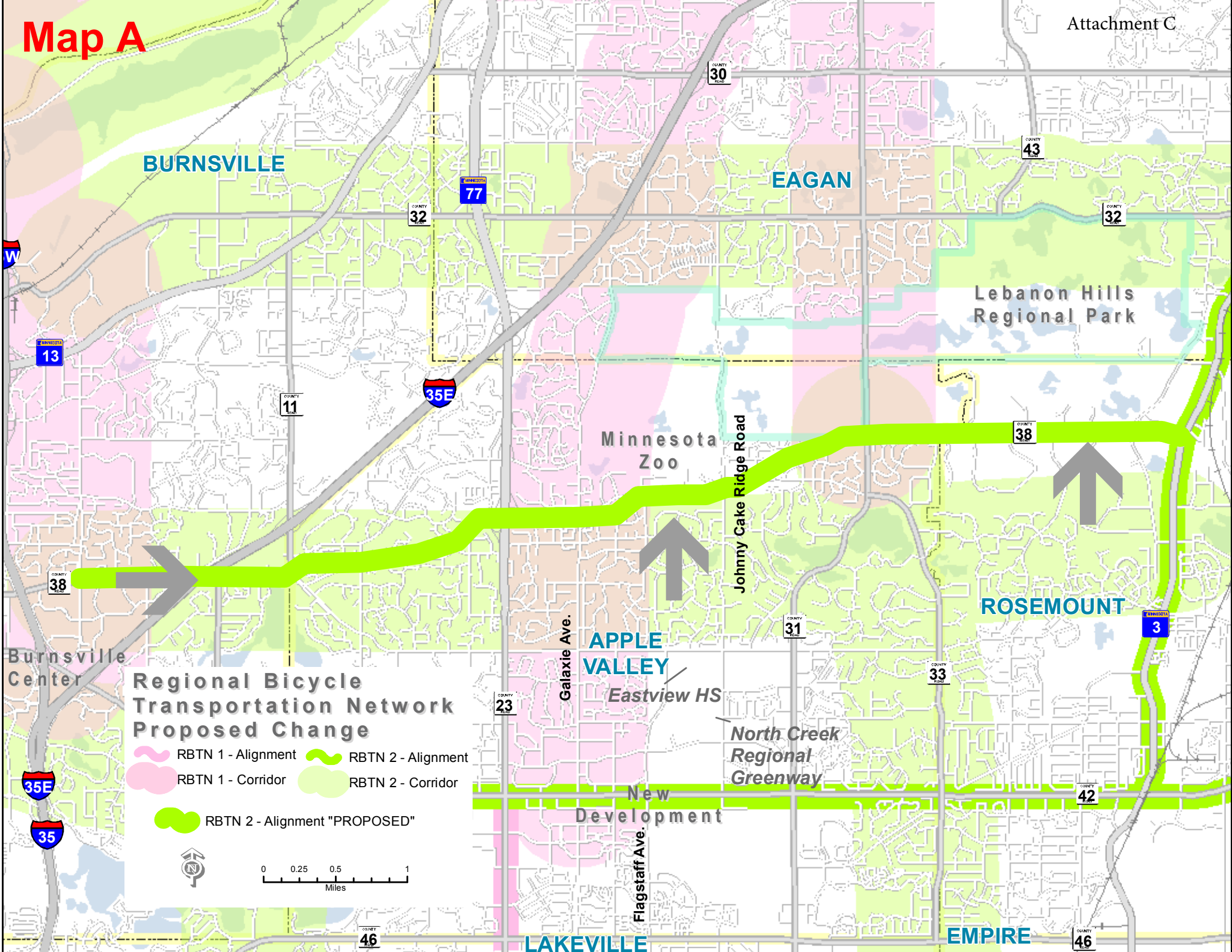
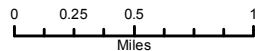
New Development

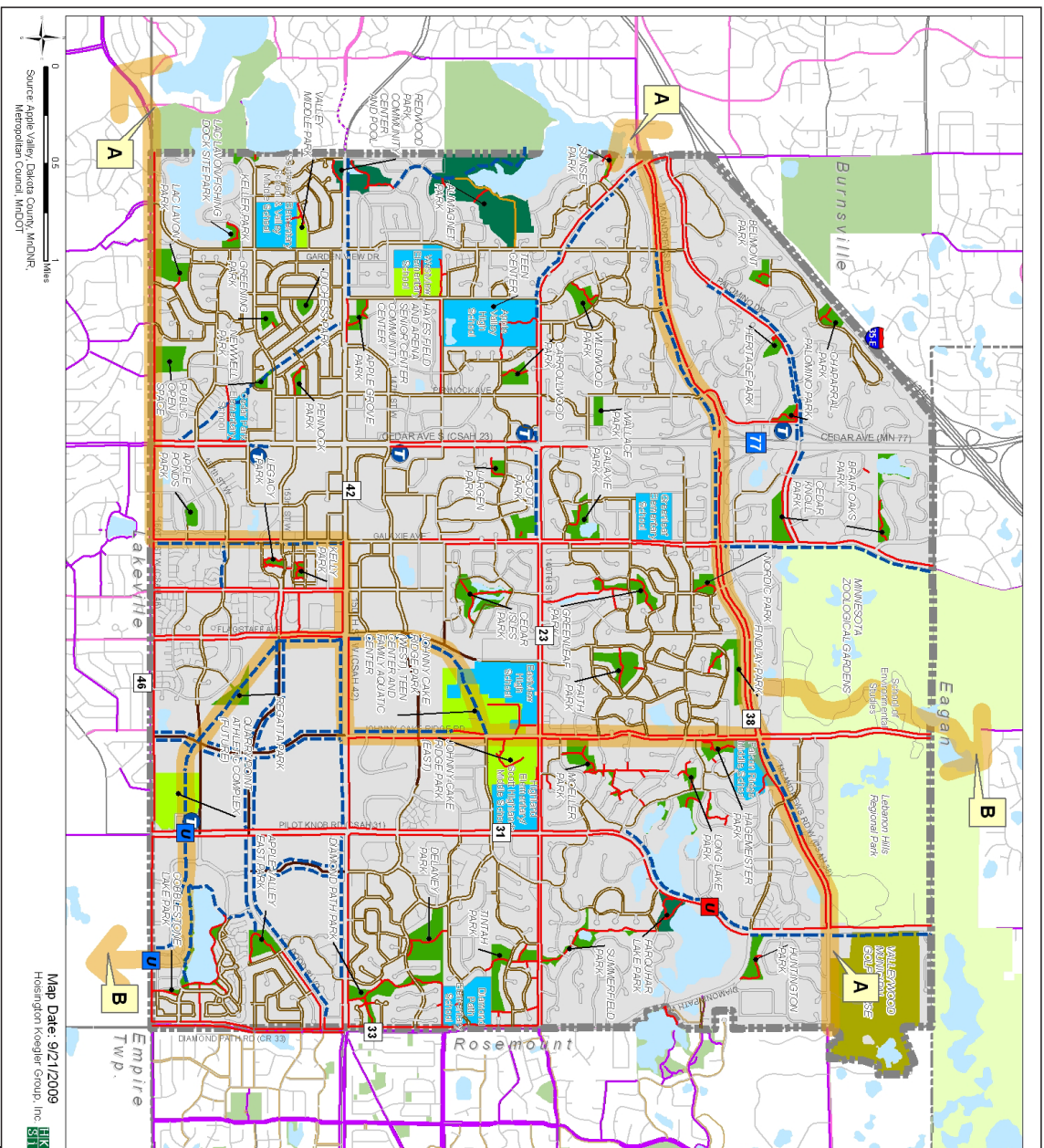
LAKEVILLE

EMPIRE

## Regional Bicycle Transportation Network Proposed Change

-  RBTN 1 - Alignment
-  RBTN 1 - Corridor
-  RBTN 2 - Alignment
-  RBTN 2 - Corridor
-  RBTN 2 - Alignment "PROPOSED"





**Potential Regional Trail Alignments**  
 A = Dakota County South Urban Regional Trail  
 B = North Creek Greenway Trail

- Planned Trails**
  - Potential Trail Alignments
  - Conceptual Future City Trails
  - Proposed Pedestrian/Bike Underpass
- Existing City Parks and Trails & Sidewalks**
  - Community Park
  - Community Playfield
  - Neighborhood Park
  - Special Use Park
  - Existing Gravel Path
  - Existing Trail
  - Existing Sidewalk
  - Pedestrian/Bike Underpass
- Non-City Parks, Recreation & Schools**
  - Regional Parks and Minnesota Zoo
  - Existing Parks
  - Schools
- Recreation in Adjacent Cities**
  - Existing Paved Trail
  - Existing Bike Lane
  - Proposed Paved Trail
  - Existing Sidewalks
- Other Information**
  - Transit Connections
  - Future Street

**Future People Movement Plan**  
 Figure 7.4

**Elmer, Steven**

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**From:** Chatfield, Kurt <KURT.CHATFIELD@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 04, 2016 4:26 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Steven; Vessel, David  
**Cc:** Stwora, Erin; Brian Sorenson; Bernstein, Barry  
**Subject:** RE: Dakota Co Request for Changes to the Reg Bicycle Transportation Network  
**Attachments:** 2015\_RBTN\_Change\_AV\_revised.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Steve,

Thank you for the voicemail and follow-up email. Here is Dakota County's revised request to move the RBTN alignment which we believe is consistent with a minor change request:

**1.) Change Request B: Establish a Tier 1 alignment of a Tier 1 Corridor that is parallel and proximal to an established Tier 1 corridor.**

The Proposed change would establish a Tier 1 alignment east approximately 1/8 to 1/2 mile of the Tier 1 Corridor that follows Galaxie Ave. in Apple Valley. The proposed alignment would follow Flagstaff Ave. and Johnny Cake Ridge Road. In addition the alignment would parallel important sections of the master planned North Creek Regional Greenway. Establishing the tier 1 alignment to utilize Flagstaff and Johnny Cake Ridge Roads provides a more complete pedestrian opportunity and aligns better with adopted city and county plans (see attached map).

The proposed alignment change addresses the following:

- Better aligns with 2010 City of Apple Valley Bicycle Pedestrian Plan
- Better aligns with City of Apple Valley Comprehensive Plan
- Better aligns with Metro Council Regional Parks and Trails System Plan
- Connects to more schools and parks
- Aligns with planned road design of Johnny Cake Ridge Road that includes bike lanes
- Parallel to existing designated Tier 1 corridor centered on Galaxie Ave
- Proposed alignment is safer for all bicyclists:
  - o Provides grade separated crossing opportunities at major roads
  - o Follows lower volume/speed parallel roads
  - o Includes roads with bike friendly shoulder opportunities
- Provides direct connection to regional destination including downtown Apple Valley, Minnesota Zoo, and Lebanon Hills Regional Park.
- Provides connections to regional transit facilities along Pilot Knob Rd. & Cedar Ave via multiple local roads and trails
- The proposed alignment accommodates a broader range of cyclists:
  - o Includes multiple on-road and off-road facilities
  - o Includes multiple existing, funded and planned grade separated crossing
- Proposed corridor better addresses physical barriers of high speed/volume arterials

Attached is a map representing the revised request. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

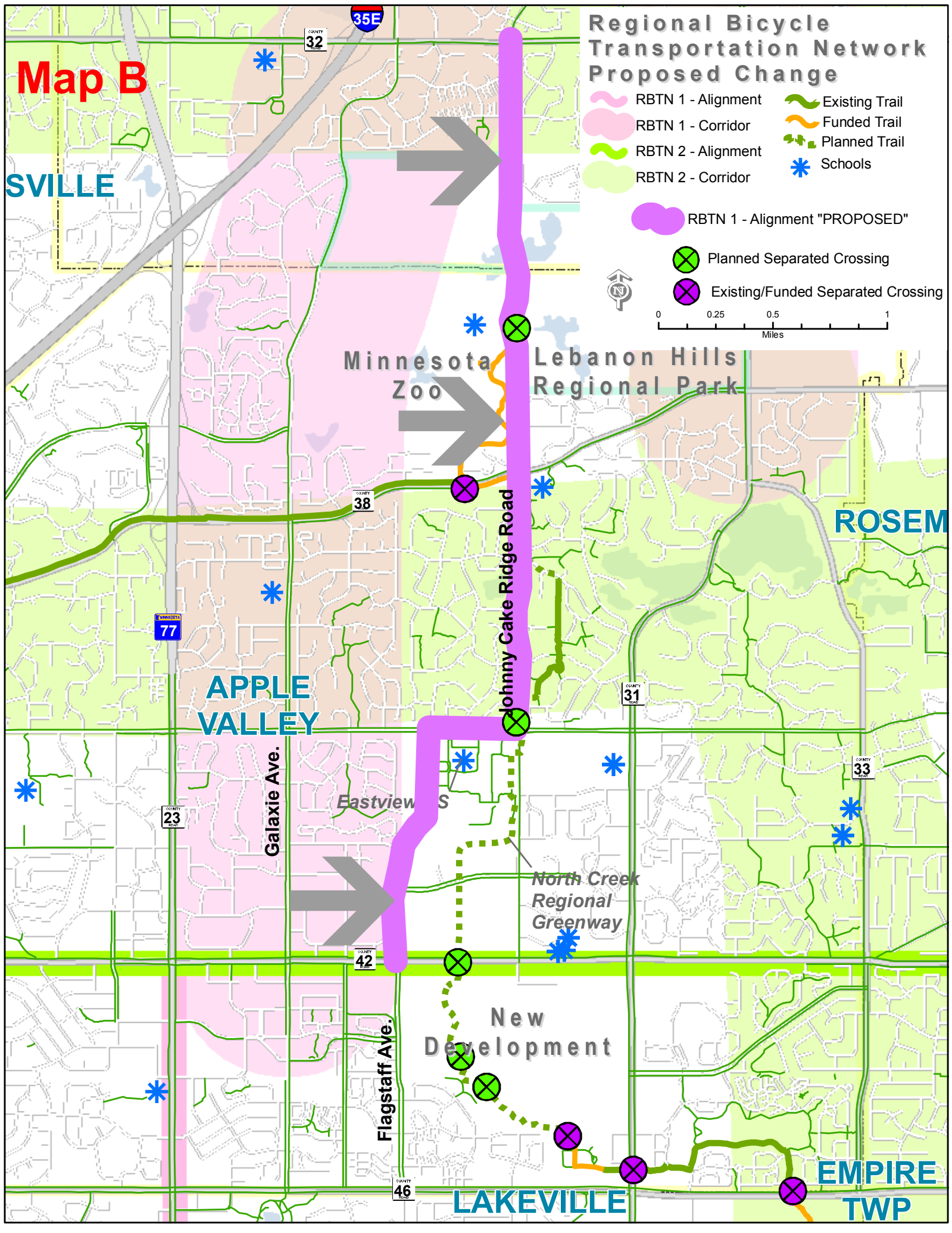
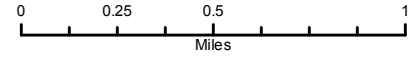
Sincerely,  
Kurt Chatfield

Kurt Chatfield  
Planning Supervisor  
Dakota County

# Map B

## Regional Bicycle Transportation Network Proposed Change

- RBTN 1 - Alignment
- RBTN 1 - Corridor
- RBTN 2 - Alignment
- RBTN 2 - Corridor
- RBTN 1 - Alignment "PROPOSED"
- Existing Trail
- Funded Trail
- Planned Trail
- Schools
- Planned Separated Crossing
- Existing/Funded Separated Crossing



SVILLE

ROSEM

APPLE VALLEY

LAKEVILLE

EMPIRE TWP

Minnesota Zoo

Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Galaxie Ave.

Eastview S

North Creek Regional Greenway

New Development

Flagstaff Ave.

Johnny Cake Ridge Road

