



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: January 9, 2020

Date of Next Status Update Report: April 1, 2021

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2022

Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Mesabi Trail; Additional Funding Request

Project Manager: Robert Manzoline

Organization: St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority

College, Department, or Division:

Mailing Address: 111 Station 44 Road

City, State, Zip Code: Eveleth, MN 55734

Project Manager Direct Telephone Number: (218) 744-2653

Email Address: bmanzoline@rrauth.com

Web Address: Mesabitrail.com

Location: NE Minnesota, St. Louis County within the Township of Biwabik, City of McKinley, and the City of Biwabik

Total Project Budget: \$1,000,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$1,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2020, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Our request is for additional funding to complete the building of the Mesabi Trail from **McKinley to Biwabik**. This segment is a key piece of the Mesabi Trail that connects major portions of the trail already constructed. This 5.5 miles long trail received year 2017 LCCMR funding in the amount of \$753,000 of which there is a balance of \$583,065, and Federal TAP funding in the amount of \$1,004,976; and Legacy funds of \$179,763; and we are requesting an additional \$1,000,000 to build this trail for a construction cost of \$2,628,000. The trail has been rerouted around the shore of a lake which will require construction of 900 feet of floating bridge and additional wetland mitigation which has increased the construction costs. This segment also has a large amount of fencing which is required by the adjoining mining and mineral concerns which has added to the costs. Identifying and securing easements and right of ways in this segment has been complicated due to expanding mining operations, wetlands, and private ownerships.

The original work plan from August 2019 included a segment of the trail from the Darwin Meyers WMA to CR 21. This segment has been removed from the work plan because, the Regional Railroad Authority applied for and has received a grant from the IRRRB for the funding needed to complete this segment.

The St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority has increased staffing in accounting and administration to accommodate the reporting and financial management of the grants received from various agencies. This staffing includes a part time accounting person dedicated from the St. Louis County Purchasing Department and a full time employee at the Regional Railroad Authority to assist in all administrative duties.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

See below sections III and IV for updates

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: McKinley to Biwabik

Description: This 5.5 miles long trail will make connections to the existing Mesabi Trail in the City of McKinley and in the City of Biwabik. Due to right-of-way issues, part of the proposed trail has been relocated to a new location where seen on the attached maps. The new trail location length is approximately 3,900 feet passing across the Cave Lake water inlet and adjoining wetlands. We are proposing to construct a 900 feet long floating bridge to cross the wetlands minimizing impacts to the wetland and water flowage. The new trail location has increased project costs primarily for the floating bridge and wetland mitigation and fencing along the trail in areas of mining operations.

Environmental work and engineering design will need to be performed on the new trail. The right-of-way has been acquired.

A full description of this project is seen within M.L. 2017 ENRTF Mesabi Trail Work Plan.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Environmental and wetland mitigation	May 2020 (using other funds)
2. Design Engineering	February 2020 (using other funds)
3. Construction	October 2021

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Mesabi Trail news and updates are provided through a variety of media, marketing and publications. Web site is: Mesabitrail.com. The following are some of the groups & organizations that disseminate Mesabi Trail information and typically include updates of newly completed trail segments:

- Club Mesabi (15,000 maps & web site)
- Iron Range Tourism (30,000 brochures & web site)
- MN Office of Tourism
- MPR
- Parks & Trails, Home & Away, other private magazines
- 225,000 trail users per year
- Named by the Star Tribune as “Best of Minnesota” in year 2013

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: Trail construction costs vary depending on the type of terrain or base being used. For example, constructing trail on an abandon railroad grade may cost a \$100,000 per mile while construction through a rocky terrain with bridges may cost in excess of \$500,000 per mile.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: No classified staff or staff time will be paid for with this appropriation.

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 0	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = 0
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 10.000	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = 4.8
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

- A. Partners outside of project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding: **None**
- B. Partners outside of project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding: **None**

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Long-term strategy for the Mesabi Trail has not changed since 1995 which is to construct a trail from Grand Rapids to Ely connecting 26 communities along the way. Seeking eligible grants to complete the trail is an ongoing process. A key component is to maintain the completed trail to last for a period greater than 20 years. The Regional Railroad Authority has committed to maintain the trail and currently budgets over \$300,000 per year for maintenance costs.

Short-term impacts make local trails connections between communities and destinations.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted April 1 and October 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2022

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Visual Component or Map
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet – N/A
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements – N/A
- E. Research Addendum – N/A

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Robert Manzoline

Project Title: Mesabi Trail; Additional Funding Request

Organization: St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority

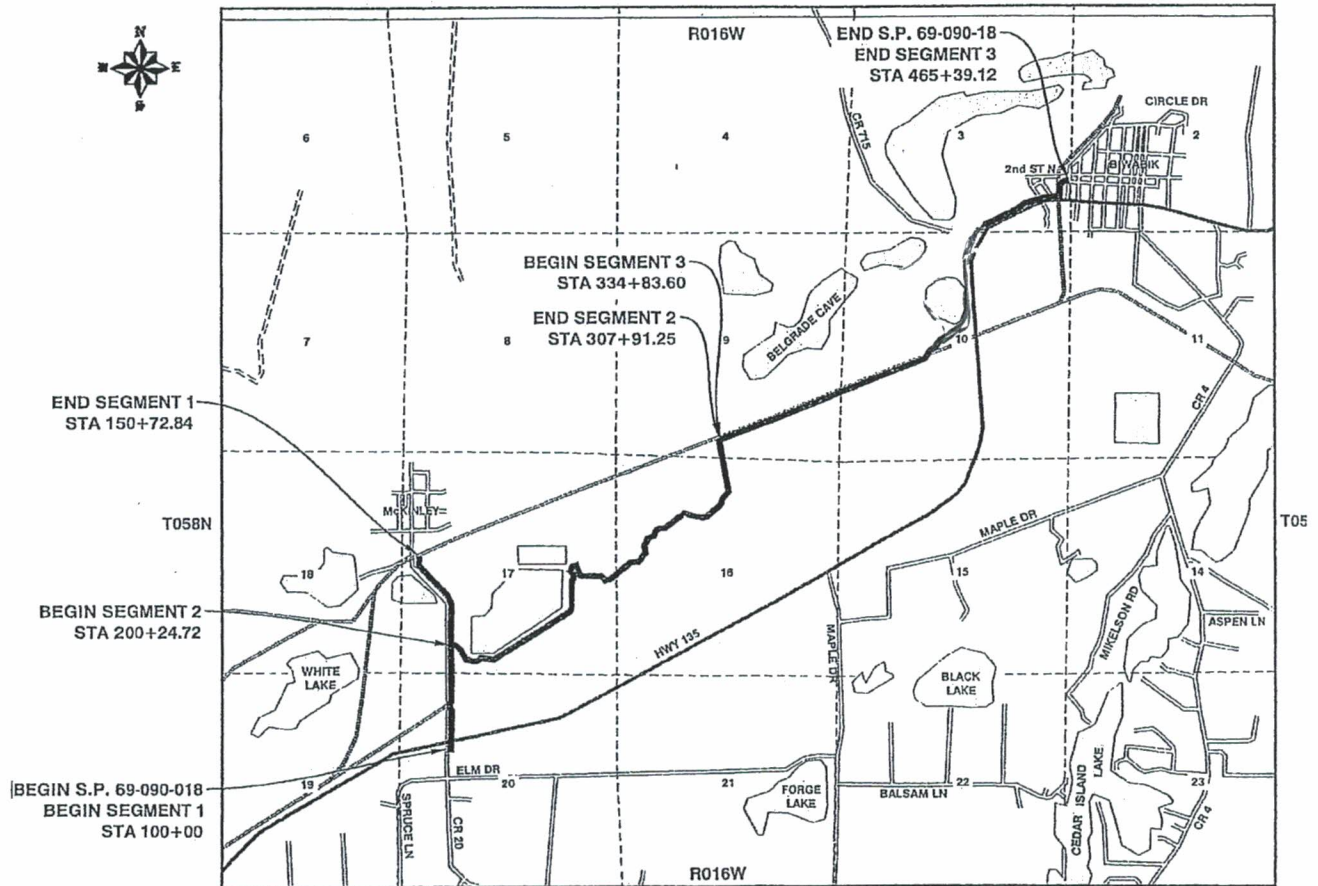
Project Budget: 1,000,000

Project Length and Completion Date: latest completion date June 2022

Today's Date: January 9, 2020



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				
Contract with design engineer for final design for trail realignment, floating bridge, additional wetland mitigation, and construction management and construction staking		\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000				
Contract with multiple firms TBD for construction work selected through a competitive bid process		\$ 900,000	\$ -	\$ 900,000
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State: Federal	secured	\$ 1,004,000	\$ -	\$ 1,004,000
State: Legacy L034-13-2B	secured	\$ 179,763	\$ -	\$ 179,763
ML 2017 LCCMR balance		\$ 583,065	\$ -	\$ 583,065
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
		\$ 6,069,000	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 1,269,000



PROJECT LOCATION
Mesabi Trail - McKinley to Biwabik Segment

LOCATION MAP