

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 178-G

Mesabi Trail Segment Highway 135 to Embarrass

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,200,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2016 to June 2019

Summary:

For environmental, engineering and trail construction work to complete a 10' wide, bituminous surfaced trail, 6 mile long segment of the Mesabi Trail from Highway 135 to Embarrass.

Name: Robert Manzoline

Sponsoring Organization: St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Author

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Eveleth MN 55734

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Web Address _____

Location

Region: NE

County Name: St. Louis

City / Township: White Township & Embarrass

Alternate Text for Visual:

From the existing end point of the Mesabi Trail at Hwy 135 to Embarrass.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %



PROJECT TITLE: Mesabi Trail Segment Highway 135 to Embarrass

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Segment TH 135 to Embarrass (hereafter known as the "Project") is another six (6) mile long piece of the planned 145 mile long Mesabi Trail extending from Grand Rapids to Ely. The Mesabi Trail is a 10 foot, wide bituminous surfaced trail currently 110 miles in length constructed in accordance with the MN Dot Bikeway Facility Design Manual.

The Project is currently undergoing a route alternatives analysis and public review and comment. Three (3) proposed trail routes, each approximately six (6) miles in length, are being reviewed. Public meetings have been held in the Township of Embarrass and forthcoming meetings will be held in the Township of White. The proposed route alternatives are located within Sections 1,2,3,10, T59, R13, Township of White and Sections 25,26,27,34,35,36, T60, R15, Township of Embarrass. A preferred route should be selected in August 2015.

This Project, in keeping with the Mesabi Trail Master Plan, is a regional trail in Northeast Minnesota that connects communities, provides a transportation corridor, promotes healthy lifestyles and is ADA compliant. The trail traverses multiple landscapes, natural settings, state parks, state and county and federal forests, lakes and streams. The trail travels through many cultural settings that are interpreted including Native American, european settlers, logging era, former iron mining era and current iron mining operations. The trail connects 24 communities with yearly users exceeding 200,000 per year of which, 34% arrive from outside of the northeast MN region. The trail is designated non-motorized with the exception of certain trail segments designated for winter snowmobiling. Twenty seven (27) miles of the trail are designated for snowmobile use.

Trail constructed through a natural setting is carefully located to minimize adverse impacts to waters, wetlands and wildlife. The trail does pass through wildlife areas designated as critical habitat for threatened or endangered species such as the Long Eared Bat and Canadian Lynx, however; proposed trail construction corridors are vigorously reviewed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, MN DNR Fish & Wildlife, MN DNR Waters, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and local agencies. In addition, designated land use, property ownership, cultural resources, farmlands, recreational areas and other elements are reviewed, changed or approved by the National Environmental Protection Agency, Minnesota Environmental Protection Agency, MN State Historic Preservation Office and local agencies.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: Environmental for Federal NEPA & State MEPA and other Federal, State and Local permits.

Environmental work needed to comply with Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Minnesota Environmental Protection Act (MEPA). As part of NEPA and MEPA, we will be analyzing the "Universe" of trail route alternatives that could be used and then "down – select" to the most preferred alternative. As stated under "Project Statement" this activity has begun. Along with no-build, land use, social, economic & other impacts; environment and cultural resource are usually the most sensitive impacts for new trail construction particularly avoidance and/or minimization of impacts to waters, wetlands, protected wildlife, vegetation and historic sites.

Activity Completion Date: July 2017

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. COE, EPA, SHIPO, Easements, MN DNR, MPCA & Other secured	July 2017	\$ 100,000



ACTIVITY 2:

Description: Engineering design, survey, plans, specification and construction management.

Engineering will be done in accordance with the MN Dot Bikeway Facility Design Manual. Engineering work begins with support of the environmental work and then to more specific survey work including property lines, topographic, paying particular attention to vertical alignment and horizontal curves. Survey is followed by trail design in accordance with MN Dot standards, Federal standards and ASHTO with on-site conditions such as waterways, wetlands, hills, valleys determining the final trail design. The engineer will prepare a construction plan and specification, prepare construction bid documents and assist with contracts. The engineer will provide construction management that includes on-site contractor inspection, testing oversight, processing payments and other work as needed.

Activity Completion Date: December 2017

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
2. Plans, specifications, bid documents for/and construction	December 2017	\$ 150,000

ACTIVITY 3:

Description: Trail Construction

The trail will be constructed by a responsible contractor. Contractor selection is based on a bidding process acceptable to MN Dot and County bidding requirements. The contractor will construct the trail in accordance with engineers plan and specifications. Contractor is responsible to perform construction using methods that are in accordance with OSHA, NEPA and other industry standards. The following is a general description of each trail segment:

Activity Completion Date: May 2019

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
3. Constructed 10 foot wide bituminous surface trail	May 2019	\$1,280,000

III.PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Partners

- Lead - St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority with assistance from St. Louis County Public Works
- Local Assistance – White and Embarrass Townships, St. Louis County Land Department, MN DNR Forestry, Waters & Fish & Wildlife

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

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 as seen on enclosed map. Grass roots public support for trail development and long-term viability has always and will continue to be vital for this project. A key component in this strategy is to maintain the completed trail as some parts/segments will be over 20 years old by the time the overall trail is finished. The Regional Railroad Authority has committed to maintain the trail and currently budgets over \$300,000 per year for maintenance costs.

C. Timeline Requirements

Activity 1; Environmental	July 2016 through 2017.
Activity 2; Engineering	October 2016 through December 2017
Activity 3; Construction	April 2018 through May

2016 Detailed Project Budget

Mesabi Trail Segment Highway 135 to Embarrass

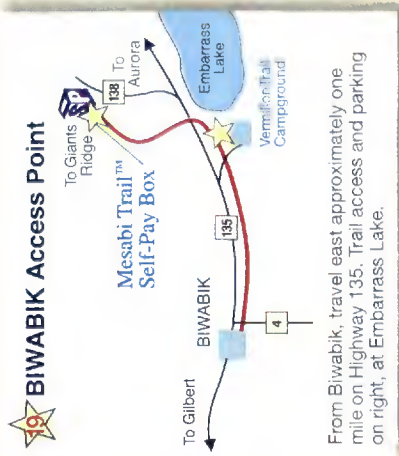
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years, July 2016 to June 2019

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Environmental consultant to perform work described under Activity 1. Environmental work for this project is estimated to cost approximately 6% of the total project cost. Consultants are selected by way of a "Request for Qualifications" or "Request for Proposals" process	50,000
Engineering consultant to perform work described under Activity 2. Engineering work is estimated to cost approximately 10% of the total project cost. Consultants are selected by way of a "Request for Qualifications" or "Request for Proposals" process	\$75,000
Construction for this 6 mile long project as described under activity 3.	\$1,075,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 1,200,000

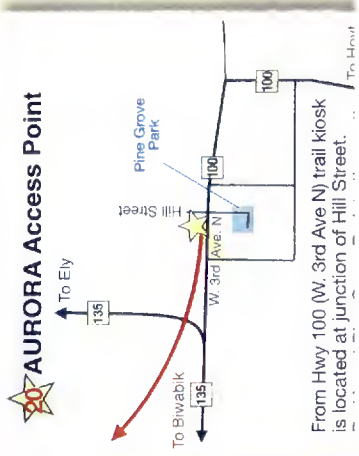
V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>N/A</i>	\$ -	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash dollars 2014 Legacy Grant L035-13-2B. For budget purposes, assigned \$50,000 to environmental work, \$75,000 to engineering work and \$205,000 for construction. This grant expires June 30, 2016.</i>	\$330,000	<i>secured</i>
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>N/A</i>	\$ -	
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured but to be expended prior to July 1, 2016, see above Legacy Grant L035-13-2B</i>	\$ -	
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: <i>N/A</i>	\$ -	

From the Mississippi to the Boundary Waters



From Biwabik, travel east approximately one mile on Highway 135. Trail access and parking on right, at Embarrass Lake.



From Hwy 100 (W. 3rd Ave N) trail kiosk is located at junction of Hill Street.

END T.H. 195
CONSTRUCTION PLANNED FOR 2018
LCCMR 2016 APPLICATION
2014 LEACY GRANT



Project Manager Qualifications for ENRTF 2016 Proposal

Project manager is Robert Manzoline, Executive Director of the St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, hereafter referred to as the "Rail Authority".

Rail Authority has been working on the development of the Mesabi Trail since year 1995 and has constructed 110 miles of the trail thus far. Another 7 miles of the Mesabi Trail is planned for construction in year 2015.

The project, TH 135 to Embarrass segment of the Mesabi Trail is very similar to most other segments of the Mesabi Trail constructed to date. The Rail Authority is experienced with all aspects of this project including public involvement, agency contacts, environmental, engineering, construction and budgets and funding.

The Rail Authority has worked with many grant agencies over the years including LCCMR, MN State Bond, MN Legacy, MN DEED, MN IRRB and Federal Enhancement, TAP and Recreational Trails grants. Mesabi Trail grants have totaled in excess of \$10 million dollars.