

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

Mesabi Trail Extensions

ENRTF ID: 254-G

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: \$ 5,150,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2023 (4 yrs)

Summary:

Complete the Mesabi Trail by constructing the four remaining trail segments where further described within the Main Proposal.

Name: Robert Manzoline

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

Title: Director

Department: _____

Address: 111 Station 44 Road

Eveleth MN 55734

Telephone Number: (218) 744-2653

Email bmanzoline@rrauth.com

Web Address _____

Location

Region: Northeast

County Name: Itasca, St. Louis

City / Township: 21 cities lying between Grand Rapids and Ely

Alternate Text for Visual:

Attached map is a general description of the proposed trail locations. Detailed maps are prepared and will be submitted upon request.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2019 Main Proposal**

PROJECT TITLE: Mesabi Trail Extensions

I. PROJECT STATEMENT Some members of the LCCMR encouraged a proposal completing the Mesabi Trail. It is our intent to complete the remaining unbuilt segments of the Mesabi Trail from Grand Rapids to Ely, thus meeting the goal and objectives of this project which started in 1994. Our request is for funding to build the 4 remaining trail segments known as Darwin Meyers WMA to CR 21 – 3 miles; and CR 26 to Tower – 6 miles; and CR 128 to Eagles Nest Town Hall – 2.5 miles; and Wolf Creek to Hwy 169 Underpass – 2.5 miles.

Running from the Mississippi to the Boundary Waters, the Mesabi Trail is a planned 10' wide, 155 mile-long paved trail that serves as an alternate transportation corridor and recreational facility for non-motorized use namely pedestrian, bike, ski, and horses and in designated areas, winter snowmobile use. The trail will connect twenty-eight (28) communities across two counties starting in Grand Rapids and ending in Ely. Approximately 126 miles of the trail has been constructed since its inception in 1996. The Mesabi Trail is owned and maintained by the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RRA). The annual trail maintenance budget is \$395,000, and is funded locally and by users. The trail has been constructed in cooperation with landowners, local governments and State and Federal agencies with no eminent domain proceedings. The LCCMR has been our solid partner as we proceed to finish this premier trail in Minnesota.

The Mesabi Trail is constructed in accordance with the MN DOT Bikeway Facility Design. The trail 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 currently connects 24 communities with yearly users exceeding 200,000 per year of which, 34% arrive from outside of the northeast MN region. It is truly a statewide asset.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Darwin Meyers WMA to CR 21 – 3 miles

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 700,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Right-of-Way acquisition 2% of project cost	December 2019
2. Engineering and Environmental work 18% of project cost	June 2020
3. Trail Construction	October 2020

Activity 2: CR 26 to Tower – 6 miles

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 3,100,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Right-of-Way acquisition 2% of project cost	December 2021
2. Engineering and Environmental work 18% of project cost	June 2022
3. Trail Construction	October 2022



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2019 Main Proposal**

Activity 3: CR 128 to Eagles Nest Town Hall

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 750,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Right-of-Way acquisition 2% of project cost	December 2020
2. Engineering and Environmental work 18% of project cost	June 2021
3. Trail Construction	October 2021

Activity 4: Wolf Creek to Hwy 169 Underpass

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 600,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Right-of-Way acquisition 2% of project cost	December 2019
2. Engineering and Environmental work 18% of project cost	June 2020
3. Trail Construction	October 2020

III. PROJECT PARTNERS: None

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

This funding request will complete the Mesabi Trail project. No additional funding is anticipated at this time, however; there have been several requests from communities and other trails to make connection to the Mesabi Trail that may, in the future, be considered by the Regional Railroad Authority. This includes establishing a connection to the North Shore and Gitchi Gami Trail via US Forest Road 11, which has shoulders compatible for bike traffic. Additionally, this LCCMR request may be broken down by segment and funded over ongoing budget cycles. We would be pleased to provide separate requests for segments if sought by the LCCMR.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:

Each trail segment or Activity described has its own timeline. The overall completion date is December 2022.

VI. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet**
- B. Visual Component or Map**
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**
- F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**
- G. Letter or Resolution**
- H. Certified Audit or 990 Tax Information**

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Mesabi Trail Extensions

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 4 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Environmental work for compliance with NEPA and MEPA rules including social, economic and cultural resource review estimated at 4% of the total project cost.	\$ 206,000
Engineering work for design, planning, construction and supporting environmental work estimated at 14% of the total project cost.	\$ 721,000
Right of way acquisition to include surveys, documents, legal and recording estimated at 2% of the total project cost.	\$ 103,000
Construct 14 miles of new trail at an estimated cost of \$294, 286 per mile	\$ 4,120,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 5,150,000

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

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Federal Transportation Alternatives grant application will be made for Activity 3 in the amount of 80% of the total project cost. If awarded, funds will become available in year 2021.	\$ 600,000	Pending
2018 State Bond appropriation	\$ 2,276,000	Pending
2018 ENRTF ID: 205-G	\$ 600,000	Pending
Project administration and management is performed by the St. Louis & Lake Rail Authority	\$ -	

Project Funding History

1993: ML 93 Chap. 172, Sec. 14, Subd. 10(r)	700,000	
1995: ML 95, Chap. 220, Sec. 19, Subd. 4(g)	150,000	
1996: MS Chap. 463, Sec. 7, Subd. 14	500,000	
1997: ML 1997, Chap. 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 18	600,000	
1999: ML 1999, Chap. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 4b	1,000,000	
2001: ML 2001, 1 st Special Session, Chap. 2, Sec. 14, Subd. 05	190,000	
2003: ML 2003, Chap. 128, Article 1, Sec. 9, Subd. 6h	380,000	
2005: ML 2005, First Special Session, Art. 2, Sec.11, Subd. 6(m)	1,000,000	
2006: ML 2006, Chapter 258, Sec. 7, Subd. 23	950,000	
2011: ML 2011, 1 st Special Session, Chap. 6, Art. 3, Sec. 3,Sub.c(1)	512,000	
2013: ML 2013, Chap. 137, Art. 3, Sec. 3, Subd. C4	1,250,000	
2014: ML 2014, Chap. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 07c	1,000,000	
2014 Legacy: ML 2014, Chp. 312, Art. 12, Sec. 6, Subd. 4	330,000	
2015 ENRTF: ML 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	1,000,000	
2015 Legacy: ML 2015, Chp. 2, Art. 3, Sec. 3, Subd. b	1,800,000	
2016 ENRTF: Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 9E	1,200,000	
2017 Legacy: ML 2017, Chp. 91, Art. 3, Sec. 3B	750,000	
2017 ENRTF: Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09g	2,269,000	
Federal HPP 2005 to present	2,900,000	
Federal ARRA 2009	1,200,000	
Federal Enh. 2005 to present	1,382,000	
Federal Enh. 1995 to 2005	3,000,000	
Local, IRRRB, RRA, SLC 1994 to 2017	500,000	
Federal Trail 2014	150,000	
Federal TAP 2015	1,051,000	
Federal TAP 2016	300,000	

Unfunded

Wildlife Management Area to County Highway 21	\$700,000
County Road 26 to Tower	\$3,100,000
County Road 128 to Eagles Nest	\$750,000
Wolf Creek to Highway 169	\$600,000
County Road 88 to Ely (2018 LCCMR Request)	\$600,000
	<u>\$5,750,000</u>

Recent LCCMR Funding

2017	\$2,269,000
2016	\$1,200,000
2015	\$1,000,000
2014	\$1,000,000
2018 LCCMR Request	\$600,000

2019 Construction

Highway 169 Underpass to County Road 88 - 3 miles

2015 LCCMR \$1,000,000

2020 Construction

Wolf Creek to Hwy 169 Underpass - 2.5 miles

Unfunded \$600,000

2018 Construction

Highway 169 Relocation - 3 miles

2017 Legacy \$750,000

2019 Construction

County Road 88 to Ely - 3 miles

\$300,000 Federal (FY2020)

\$600,000 LCCMR Application (FY 2018)

Total = \$900,000

Possible 2022 Construction

County Road 26 To Tower - 6 miles

Unfunded \$3,100,000

2019 Construction

Wildlife Management Area to County Highway 21 - 3 miles

Unfunded \$700,000

2021 Construction

CR 128 to Eagles Nest Town Hall - 2.5 miles

Unfunded \$750,000

2019 Construction

Embarrass to County Road 26 - 6.5 miles

Current Funding:

Legacy \$1,800,000

2018-2019 Construction (Subject to DNR Easement)

Highway 135 North to Wildlife Management Area - 5 miles

2016 LCCMR \$1,200,000

2017 LCCMR \$1,142,080

2018 Construction

Biwabik to McKinley - 5.5 miles

2018 LCCMR \$1,400,000

Federal TAP \$1,000,000

Legend

- Biwabik to McKinley
- CR 128 to Eagles Nest Town Hall
- Highway 169 Relocation (~3 miles)
- Highway 169 Underpass to County Road 88 (~3 miles)
- County Road 88 to Ely (~3 miles)
- Highway 135 to North of WMA (~3.5 miles)
- North of WMA to Highway 21 (~3 miles)
- Hwy 21 to County Road 26 (~8 miles)
- Wolf Creek to Hwy 169 Underpass
- County Road 26 to Tower (~6 miles)
- Existing Mesabi Trail
- Roads



Project Manager Qualifications for ENRTF 2019 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 126 miles of the trail thus far. Another 12 miles of the Mesabi Trail is planned for construction in year 2018 funded in part by the Environmental Trust Fund.

The 2019 proposal includes several new segments of the Mesabi Trail similar to most other trail segments constructed to date. The Rail Authority is experienced with all aspects of this project including public involvement, agency contacts, environmental, engineering, construction, budgets and funding.

The Rail Authority has worked with many granting 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 \$26 million dollars.