



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-016

Proposal Title: Harmony State Trail Extension Construction

Project Manager Information

Name: Chris Giesen

Organization: City of Harmony

Office Telephone: (507) 886-2846

Email: chris.giesen@cedausa.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: To finish the construction of a new recreational trail segment linking the Harmony Preston Valley Trail and City of Harmony to the Minnesota/Iowa border and Niagara Cave.

Funds Requested: \$5,500,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation (G)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): SE

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): SE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

In 2019 Harmony acquired approximately 6 miles of land to create an approximately 30' corridor for a proposed 10' bituminous bike trail that would extend the current Harmony-Preston Valley state trail to the south, connecting the City of Harmony to the proposed trail system of NE Iowa and Niagara Cave in Fillmore County, MN. This trail is legislatively authorized. This project is of the highest priority to the City. In 2018 the DNR was awarded \$1.5 million in state bonding funds for construction of this segment. However, due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and following construction cost inflation, the project was delayed and current construction costs now exceed the funding awarded in 2018 by the legislature. Because project costs now exceed available funds, construction is not able to be completed. In addition, the 2018 bonding funds are now expiring as such funds by statute must be encumbered within 4 years. Current total construction cost to complete the trail as designed is \$5.5 million assuming construction in 2024/25. Because of COVID and inflation, the project did not move forward as planned and the remaining state bond funds will likely be forfeited.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

This proposal seeks \$5.5 million to construct the trail as authorized and designed. The City of Harmony will use this funding to construct the design already created by DNR, and turn over ownership of the trail to DNR/State of Minnesota once completed. The City is also seeking legislative funding to complete the project. Given the timeline for the legislature and LCCMR, we are submitting this proposal to LCCMR as a backstop should the legislature not act favorably. If partial or full funding is secured prior to this proposal's consideration/funding, the City will either return unneeded funds to LCCMR or cancel this proposal entirely.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

This project will complete the construction of the proposed Harmony State Trail Extension; creating a year round nonmotorized recreational trail opportunity consistent with the Harmony-Valley State Trail Master Plan.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Trail Construction

Activity Budget: \$5,500,000

Activity Description:

Construction approximately 6 miles of 10' bituminous trail from the City of Harmony south to the Minnesota/Iowa state border, with a connection to Niagara Cave. Cost includes engineering, construction, and interpretative amenities consistent with the Harmony-Preston Valley Trail Master Plan as amended in 2021.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Let Bids	July 31, 2024
Award Bids	August 31, 2024
Construction	August 31, 2025
Completion	December 31, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Kent Skaar	MN DNR	Advisory	No
Brett Grabau	Stantec	Advisory/City Engineer	No

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

The City of Harmony will lead the bidding and construction of the trail project. After construction, it will turn ownership of the trail and ongoing maintenance over to the DNR.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Harmony State Trail Extension Land Acquisition	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$235,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Chris Giesen

Job Title: Vice President

Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Chris is the Vice President of Community and Economic Development Associates and serves the City of Harmony as their economic development staff. Chris has 14 years of project, grant, and local government oversight and management experience. Since 2009, Chris has authored, been awarded and managed over 60 grants for local governments totaling over \$21 million including a successful 2018 LCCMR award for Harmony, multiple legislative appropriations, and both DEED and USDA grants and programs. Chris has also participated with local government construction projects of all types, reporting, pay requests, and other interactions with state and federal agencies. Chris wrote, managed, and otherwise was responsible for Harmony's 2018 successful LCCMR award.

Organization: City of Harmony

Organization Description:

Municipal Government

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Project Engineer/Bidding/Construction Inspection				-		\$358,860
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction				-		\$5,006,097
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contingency				-		\$135,043
							Sub Total	\$5,500,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$5,500,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
---------------	---------------------	-------------	--

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Harmony Area Community Foundation	Construction	Secured	\$15,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$15,000
			Funds Total	\$15,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [4ca046c0-0b6.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of trail route; extending south from Harmony city limit to the Iowa border and Niagara Cave in southern Fillmore County, Minnesota....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Harmony LCCMR Authorization Resolution	32831274-184.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?

Yes

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7?

No

