



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-243

Proposal Title: St. Louis River Multi-Use Bridge

Project Manager Information

Name: Caleb Peterson

Organization: City of Cloquet

Office Telephone: (218) 879-6758

Email: cpeterson@cloquetmn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project consists of upgrading the Historic D&NE St. Louis River Multi-use Bridge to allow safe use of the bridge by entities that enjoy outdoor recreation.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,485,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2029

LCCMR Funding Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

Project Location

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

Region(s): NE

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

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

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

The Historic D&NE St. Louis River Multi-use Bridge was originally constructed to support railroad traffic. It is believed to have been built in the early 1900s and replaced in the 1940s. In 1996, the bridge was repurposed for pedestrian, bicycle, ATV, and snowmobile use, with the installation of a timber deck and railing. The bridge plays a crucial role in connecting Dunlap Island to the City's riverfront park system, extending to the northern shoreline of the St. Louis River. It also serves as a trailhead for the regional motorized Lumberjack Trail. Recent structural inspections have identified several concerns, including pier scour, timber deterioration, and stability issues with a secondary timber abutment. Furthermore, the connection on the northern shoreline is not ideal for pedestrian use, lacking ADA-compliant access. There are also safety and security concerns related to the underpass in its current configuration. The short span over the northern shoreline trail is of lighter construction than the main bridge, limiting the weight capacity for maintenance vehicles crossing it.

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.

The proposed solution to address the current issues and opportunities with the bridge includes several key upgrades. First, structural improvements will focus on repairing the concrete pier scour identified in a recent report, which will help prolong the life of the piers and maintain the bridge's overall integrity. For the deck, the plan is to replace the existing railing, deck planks, and ties with a new laminated timber panel deck, featuring a bituminous overlay. The upgraded deck will also include four 4'x20' scenic overlooks. In terms of railing improvements, the current timber railing will be replaced with a more durable metal option, which can be either painted or galvanized. On the north side, the deteriorating timber wall and span will be replaced with a new precast concrete underpass for enhanced structural stability. Lighting improvements will involve installing shorter, pedestrian-scale poles with full-cutoff post-top luminaires, with three to five poles spaced about 200 feet or 100 feet apart. Lastly, the grade-separated connection to the City's nonmotorized trail system will be upgraded to ensure ADA-compliant access from both ends of the bridge.

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?

The project will result in an upgraded bridge that is designed and constructed in full compliance with all city, county, state, and federal regulations. This improved bridge will benefit the residents of Cloquet, the Fond du Lac reservation, local businesses, area outdoor recreation groups, and visitors to the community. Upon completion, the bridge will offer safe, ADA-compliant access to the city's park and activities along the St. Louis River. Additionally, it will connect to both local and regional trails currently used by pedestrians, cyclists, and motorized users for year-round activities.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Engineering/Pre-Design/Pre-Construction/Close-Out

Activity Budget: \$240,000

Activity Description:

The project engineer will be responsible for project design, project administration, plans/specifications, bidding documents, survey, permitting, environmental review, archeologist evaluation and material testing if needed.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Survey and Soils Data Collection	October 31, 2026
City Approval Of Design/ Plans and Specifications	September 30, 2027
All Permits Secured SHPO Consultation Complete	September 30, 2027
All Construction Funds Legally Secured	September 30, 2027
Advertisement for Bid	October 31, 2027
Construction Contract Award	November 30, 2027
Pre-Construction Meeting	March 31, 2028
Construction Oversight Ends	November 30, 2028
ENRF Signage Installed	November 30, 2028
Punch List Complete	June 30, 2029
As-Built Records Complete	June 30, 2029
Notice of Funding Restriction Recorded	June 30, 2029

Activity 2: Project Construction

Activity Budget: \$1,245,000

Activity Description:

General contractor will be responsible for site preparation, bridge upgrades and any other construction activities related to this project . General contractor will coordinate with the engineering firm and the city staff.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Competitive Bid To Select A General Contractor	October 31, 2027
Begin Project Construction	March 31, 2028
Substantial Completion	November 30, 2028
Project Open To The Public	November 30, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Mayor Roger Maki	City of Cloquet	Project Oversight	No
Holly Hansen	City of Cloquet - Community Development Director	Project/Community Support/Funding	No
Ali Bachinski	Carlton County Public Health	Project Stakeholder	No
Ross Biebl	City of Cloquet - Assistant Director of Public Works	Coordination With Project Engineer And General Contractor	No
Eric Senarighi	Carlton County Riders ATV Club	Project Stakeholder	No
Chris Rokke	Wood City Riders Snowmobile Club	Project Stakeholder	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?

All of the annual operation and maintenance costs will be the responsible of the City of Cloquet through annual budgets. The City is requesting \$1.485 million in funding with a \$371,000 local match. Structural assessment, project planning and feasibility reports were previously completed using local funds.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Caleb Peterson

Job Title: Public Works Director - City Engineer

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

Project manager is a registered professional engineer in Minnesota with 20 years experience in design, planning, construction administration and grant administration associated with public improvements.

Organization: City of Cloquet

Organization Description:

The City of Cloquet is the largest city in Carlton County with an estimated 2018 population of 12,022. Located along the beautiful St. Louis River, Cloquet is approximately 20 miles south of the southwestern tip of Lake Superior. With easy accessibility to I-35 and State Highways 33 and 210, we are only 15 minutes south of Duluth and 2 hours north of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Cloquet residents enjoy a small-town atmosphere with a distinct identity. Our well-established parks and ever growing trail system entices visitors from both near and far. Cloquet has become a destination for adventure seeking bikers, hikers, cross country skiers and ski jumpers.

The mission of the City of Cloquet is to support the health and well-being of the community, environment, and economy by providing recreational opportunities and overseeing the improvement of parks, facilities, and natural areas while focusing on the immediate needs but also planning for the future.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Engineering/Pre-Design/Pre-Construction/Close-Out	Service Contract	Design, Project Administration and Onsite Observation				6		\$240,000
General Contractor Selected Through A Competitive Bid	Service Contract	General Contractor Responsible For All Construction Activities				12		\$1,245,000
							Sub Total	\$1,485,000
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	\$1,485,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	City of Cloquet	25% Local Match - Engineering	Secured	\$60,000
Cash	City of Cloquet	25% Local Match - Construction	Potential	\$311,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$371,000
			Funds Total	\$371,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,856,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [a2c87200-7d1.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Shows the location of the bridge and surrounding land use....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Cloquet Comprehensive Financial Report	d14545c9-2be.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Council Resolution 25-18	c75bb819-e88.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Carlton County Letter of Support	3f5bde08-825.pdf
Commissioner Jugovich Letter of Support	41d04e14-81f.pdf
Fond du Lac Band Letter of Support	e19bdcc2-8c7.pdf
Twig ATV Letter of Support	a413e8d7-dad.pdf
Wood City Riders Letter of Support	68119114-583.pdf
Capital Project Questionnaire	6d33fe04-526.pdf
Capital Construction Budget Addendum	f0518efc-d99.xlsx
Cultural Signage Example	75291625-241.pdf
Bridge Background and Improvements Report	e71dbf20-f45.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

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

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 pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

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 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Mike Larson, Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc.

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

