



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-555

Proposal Title: Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement

Project Manager Information

Name: Scott Haugen

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Removal and replacement of the Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge (Bridge 3459) spanning the Baptism River which serves as the main connection to interior public use areas.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$4,951,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

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?

Statewide

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.

MNDNR is legislatively authorized under M.S. 85.012 to establish, develop, maintain and operate State Parks as specifically identified, of which 67 individual park units comprise the State Park System. This project proposes the replacement of a significant vehicle and trail bridge located within the boundaries of Tettegouche State Park with a new, modern structure. Bridge 3459 was constructed from 1923 to 1924 by A. Guthrie & Company as part of the TH 1 project, later designated US 61. Following realignment of US 61 in the late 1960's, the bridge was repurposed for pedestrian and snowmobile use, then transferred to the MNDNR in 1974. From 1979 to 1986, the bridge was incorporated into the State Park and reconstructed to accommodate a realigned park entrance road. Subsequent rehabilitation in 2004 addressed some structural deterioration. Due to its current condition and design configuration, the structure requires annual, hands-on inspections to comply with federal regulations and to maintain safe operations. The replacement of the Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge has been prioritized by MNDNR due to the structural concerns and broader impacts of the public's use of the State Park which would become inaccessible if this bridge were to fail or be closed.

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 the stated problem, and central thesis to this request, is to complete the required construction of a new, multi-span steel bridge with a concrete deck and barrier separated trail spanning the Baptism River within Tettegouche State Park. The new structure will carry vehicle, pedestrian and State Trail traffic. This existing bridge is a multi-span steel bridge with a Baltimore Deck Truss mainspan and steel girder approach spans. Architectural history evaluation has previously determined the bridge to be eligible for listing on the National Registry under Criterion C: Engineering; however, it is currently not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To advance the necessary replacement, the MNDNR completed preliminary engineering, design and environmental analysis for the replacement structure in 2024. The current intention is to complete the final bridge engineering plans and specifications by April 2027 in preparation for fall 2027 construction. The proposed replacement is critical to ensure safe, continued public access to those portions of Tettegouche State Park inland of US 61, including the Baptism River Campground and the Baptism High Falls Observation area. The new bridge will also enable future connectivity for the Gitchi-Gami State Trail/Tettegouche State Park segment.

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 outcomes relating to protection, conservation and resource enhancement are widespread, as currently proposed. Bridge 3459 is structurally deficient and will be removed via controlled demolition. Should the deterioration progress in the near term to an unsafe condition, closure would sever important connectivity to inland facilities, including the campground and High Falls areas, necessitating a temporary at-grade pedestrian crossing of US 61 for the public to maintain continuity of access. This is highly problematic and unsafe. Eliminating the connectivity the bridge provides would limit, or severely curtail, park staff's ability to safely and effectively manage inland infrastructure and land resources.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement

Activity Budget: \$4,951,000

Activity Description:

This project proposes the replacement of Bridge 3459, a 5-span, 383-foot-long, steel truss bridge located within Tettegouche State Park. The current bridge is considered “fracture critical” due to its design and requires annual inspection given the nature of the deficiency and the potential for failure. MNDNR completed preliminary engineering and design in 2024 and is in the process of advertising a Request for Proposal solicitation in order to enter into a contract with a qualified engineering firm to complete final plans, specifications and construction administration tasks. The replacement bridge is to be a 3-span, steel structure with a concrete deck containing two 13-foot travel lanes and a 12-foot barrier-separated trail. Given the presence of US 61 and the associated constraints, the replacement bridge will have a broad horizontal curve. It is the intent of the MNDNR to complete the final plans and specifications by spring 2027, including extensive geotechnical analysis given the nature of the area’s bedrock. With the MNDNR’s commitment to complete all required engineering, the requested ENRTF funding will be applied solely for the new bridge’s construction costs.

Activity Milestones:

| Description | Approximate Completion Date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Complete Project Engineering and Specifications | April 30, 2027 |
| Project Permitting and SHPO Consultation Complete | June 30, 2027 |
| Bid Advertisement | July 31, 2027 |
| Construction Contract Award | September 30, 2027 |
| Construction Substantial Complete | June 30, 2029 |
| Project Closeout and Final Reporting | June 30, 2030 |

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Statewide media releases prior to construction start and at bridge reopening, web/social media messaging for construction updates and closures/detouring, ENRTF logo and acknowledgements on all plans and front facing documents.

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?

Each State Park is a component of Minnesota's Outdoor Recreation System and the proposed project will be implemented through Division of Parks and Trails staff. All project engineering, design, contract administration, and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MNDNR Operation Services Division. The Division of Parks and Trails will operate, maintain, and protect the new bridge throughout its operational lifespan. The implementation of this project will immediately and significantly decrease the Division's annual operational costs for several decades, given the required annual inspections will no longer be required.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Scott Haugen

Job Title: Project Manager - Division of Parks and Trails

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

Scott Haugen has been employed by the State of Minnesota for 12 years, the entirety of this term with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Division of Parks and Trails. Mr. Haugen has broad experience with capital project development across multiple MNDNR administered programs, including public water accesses, state trails, bridges and state parks facilities of many types and sizes. His strengths include facility design, permitting, construction, project oversight and end-to-end management. Furthermore, he is skilled at fostering and leveraging local and interdisciplinary partnerships. Mr. Haugen has extensive familiarity with state and federal grants, procedures, requirements and implementation.

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Organization Description:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Division of Parks and Trails, one of seven agency divisions, is responsible for operating 67 state parks, 8 recreation areas, over 650 miles of surfaced state trails, 1610 public water access sites, 30 designated water trails, 517 pedestrian and vehicle bridges and 9 state waysides. The Division of Parks and Trails connects people to the state's natural resources by providing access to outdoor recreation opportunities, conservation education and facilitating land management and protection. The vision of Parks and Trails is to create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations. More information about the MNDNR can be found at mndnr.gov.

Budget Summary

| Category / Name | Subcategory or Type | Description | Purpose | Gen. Ineligible | % Benefits | # FTE | Classified Staff? | \$ Amount |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---|---------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------------|-------------|
| Personnel | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Contracts and Services | | | | | | | | |
| Construction General Contractor (TBD) | Service Contract | Bridge controlled demolition and new bridge construction - all phases | | | | 0 | | \$4,888,592 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$4,888,592 |
| Equipment, Tools, and Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Capital Equipment | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Acquisitions and Stewardship | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Travel In Minnesota | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Travel Outside Minnesota | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Printing and Publication | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | - |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| | | MNDNR Direct and Necessary Costs | DNR's direct and necessary costs pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated projects. People Support (\$0), Safety Support (\$0), Financial Support (~\$58,780), Communication Support (~\$2,086), IT Support (\$0), and Planning Support (~\$1,543). | | | | | \$62,408 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Total | \$62,408 |
| | | | | | | | Grand Total | \$4,951,000 |

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 | | | | |
| Cash | 2025 Session Law - Capital Bond Natural Resources Asset Preservation M.S. 84.946, Subd. 4 | As a Departmental priority project, match funding is intended to provide for the required final engineering, pre-construction environmental analysis, construction administration and inspection. This work will be led and supervised directly by licensed engineers from MNDNR's Operations Services Division. | Secured | \$1,100,000 |
| Cash | FY 2028-29 State Parks and Trails Legacy | Additional match funding for final engineering and construction administration deliverables. | Potential | \$550,300 |
| | | | State Sub Total | \$1,650,300 |
| Non-State | | | | |
| | | | Non State Sub Total | - |
| | | | Funds Total | \$1,650,300 |

Total Project Cost: \$6,601,300

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [6e0c9c64-e94.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement Map...

Supplemental Attachments

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

| Title | File |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Budget Addendum | 86d686ac-347.pdf |
| Capital Construction Project Questionnaire | 8b0990f9-642.pdf |
| Annual Inspection Photo | a757de98-9b7.jpe |
| Replacement Bridge Section and Layout Exhibit | 99ed85ef-5e0.pdf |
| Replacement Bridge Schematic Rendering | 5255bd43-754.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:

MNDNR Parks and Trails Division and Operations Services Division staff

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