



**Council Agenda Item: 25-0414R**

**MEETING DATE:** May 27, 2025

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO LAKEWALK TRAIL LICENSE AGREEMENTS (CITY CONTRACT NOS. 24947 and 20442) AND AN ESCROW AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. LOUIS AND LAKE COUNTIES REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND RELOCATION OF THE RAILROAD CROSSINGS OF THE LAKEWALK NEAR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AND 28<sup>TH</sup> AVE E RESPECTIVELY.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Duncan Schwensohn

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:**

June 25, 2007; Resolution No. 07-0443; City Council authorized the proper city officials to enter into an agreement with the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad authority for the relocation and operation of city utilities in conjunction with the lakewalk recreational trail from 26th Avenue East to 36th Avenue East.

May 23, 2022; Resolution No. 22-0432R; City Council authorized the proper city officials to enter into a twenty-year agreement with St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority for the construction, maintenance, inspection, repair, replacement and use of specific areas of railroad property in connection with the lakewalk.

**BACKGROUND:** This resolution authorizes first amendments to two lakewalk trail license agreements and entering into an escrow agreement with the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RR Authority) to improve and relocate the lakewalk railroad crossings near Veterans Memorial Park and 28<sup>th</sup> Ave E, respectively (city project no. 2284). The executed amendments will authorize the RR Authority to perform the work and create cost sharing agreement between the City and the and the RR Authority. The escrow agreement places the funds anticipated to be needed to complete the crossing work into an escrow account. Funds will be dispersed from the escrow account to the RR Authority as expenditures are invoiced to and approved by the City.

The amendments and escrow agreement allow improvements to the lakewalk being constructed as a part of the coastal transportation infrastructure project phase IV, (city project no. 2193). City project.no. 2193 involves improvements to the lakewalk and the Lake Superior shoreline from the head of the lake to 28<sup>th</sup> Ave E. The rail crossings have not been improved since the 1980's. The overall lakewalk project is being funded by a federal RAISE grant and a state IIJA matching grant and has a total estimated cost of approximately \$10,000,000. The estimated cost of the crossing work for city project no. 2284 is \$376,000, payable from the permanent improvement fund 411.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** The costs for this project have been budgeted.

**OPTIONS:** Authorize the agreements or not authorize and risk losing funding for city project no. 2193.

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Authorize the agreements.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Project location maps; 2 amendments to lakewalk trail license agreements; escrow agreement