



**Council Agenda Item 26-0534R**

**MEETING DATE:** June 15, 2026

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT #2 TO AGREEMENT L30831 WITH TKDA FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE DESIGN OF WAABIZHESHKANA: THE MARTEN TRAIL SEGMENTS 0, 1, and 2 PROJECT

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kooper Andringa, Project Tech, Property & Facilities Management

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** Approved Resolution 19-0784R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAABIZHESHKANA (THE MARTEN TRAIL) MINI MASTER PLAN.

Approved Resolution - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE TO INCLUDE AN INITIAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$35,000 FOR THE CONTINUED DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF WAABIZHESHKANA: THE MARTEN TRAIL AND THE ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY NATIONAL WATER TRAIL

Approved Resolution - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT 24401 WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO INCREASE THE FUNDING AWARD BY \$140,000 FOR THE CONTINUED DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF WAABIZHESHKANA: THE MARTEN TRAIL.

Approved Resolution 23-0737 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,375,000 TO EXPAND RECREATIONAL ACCESS ALONG THE ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY.

Approved Resolution 24-0372R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE THIRD AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT 24401 WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO INCREASE THE FUNDING AWARD BY \$224,000 TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING ALONG THE ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY.

Approved Resolution 23-0531R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH TKDA FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE DESIGN OF WAABIZHESHKANA: THE MARTEN TRAIL SEGMENTS 0, 1, and 2 PROJECT.

Approved Resolution 25-0647R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT L30831 WITH TKDA FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE DESIGN OF WAABIZHESHKANA: THE MARTEN TRAIL SEGMENTS 0, 1, and 2 PROJECT FOR AN INCREASE OF \$54,326.00 AND A NEW TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$153,949.00.

**BACKGROUND:** This project began in 2022 with a 60% design plan set from TKDA. Since then, multiple grants were awarded and the project scope was adjusted based on the new grant requirements. Because the design preceded the construction funding sources, federal and state environmental and cultural review requirements added work that could not have been anticipated in the original design. A good design that is far enough along in the design process is needed to create a competitive grant application and define what to request from granting agencies.

Scope additions and impacts:

- The project timeline was extended by five years, which increased costs due to inflation, labor, scope changes from project, and additional maintenance work was performed by City staff during that period that changed the scope of work. We also had a third party working in the project corridor on environmental contamination that was not known at the time in 2022 that has led to scope and design changes on our project as well.
- A segment of the trail alignment design was revised from the original scope to better accommodate adjacent private properties and their privacy.
- Detailed railroad crossing design was added; crossings were not included in the original contract.
- The tunnel under one of the railroads required redesign when the standard changed from BNSF to CN, necessitating plan revisions to secure permission to pass under the tunnel.
- Hydraulic modeling for a bridge over Stewart Creek was added after the final alignment and plans were established. The original 60% proposal did not include this modeling because a final bridge design and trail routing was not yet available, so the extent of modeling needed was uncertain and added later.

Waabizheshikana (The Marten Trail), once referred to as the Western Waterfront Trail, consists of an existing 3.3-mile multi-use recreational trail that traces the shore of the St. Louis River Estuary. A mini master plan was approved in 2019 with the following major recommendations:

1. Rebrand the Western Waterfront Trail as a heritage trail, including renaming the trail to reflect and honor the cultural and historical significance of the area.
2. Initiate a separate heritage interpretive planning process to identify and articulate the stories of the river and the area.
3. Retain the entire existing LSMR rail line for excursion train use.
4. Extend the existing trail to connect seven river corridor neighborhoods by way of a trail alignment that traverses the shoreline and nearby ridgeline.
5. Improve three existing water access sites and develop three additional water access sites to increase public riverfront use.
6. Design all these facilities to ensure accessibility, regardless of income, age or physical ability.

A Cooperative Agreement between the City of Duluth and National Park Service for the design and development of Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail, was accepted in 2022. The Cooperative Agreement provides for multi-year technical assistance, as well as an initial financial award of \$35,000 to be used for further design of Segment 2 of Waabizheshikana, to include the Munger Landing and Blackmer Park Trailheads, as well as pause area elements identified in Waabizheshikana: The Marten Trail Interpretive Plan along Segments 0-2. Three amendments have been made to the original contract to increase the total funding to \$539,500.00.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** Budget is now \$208,949.00, from the Half & Half Tax Projects fund Waabizheshikana Trail, Seg 0-3: 63rd Ave W to Boathouse Pt

**OPTIONS:** Approve the resolution and the design of the trail can continue. If denied the project will be halted.

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Approve.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Exhibit A