

Council Agenda Item 26-0131R



MEETING DATE: 02/23/2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: Resolution authorizing application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a Federal Recreational Trail Program grant of up to \$200,000 to support construction of the Cross City Trail between Redruth Street and South 67th Avenue West

SUBMITTED BY: Allison Brooks – Project Coordinator, Cliff Knettel – Assistant Manager of Parks & Recreation, James Gittemeier – Transportation Planner

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Resolution 17-0231R granted approval and implementation of the Cross City Trail Mini Master Plan. Since the adoption of this plan, there have been numerous resolutions relating to development of the Cross City Trail including authorizing applications to various funding sources and acceptance of subsequent grant awards, acquisition of easements and real property for the trail, professional services agreements for the development of design documents, and contracts for construction. Most recently, resolution 26-0009R authorized acceptance of a permanent easement with Kwik Trip, Inc. for trail construction, and 26-0060R authorized an application for Transportation Alternatives funding to support construction of the Cross City Trail between Redruth Street and Fremont Street.

BACKGROUND: The Cross City Trail is a critical multi-modal transportation trail connecting western neighborhoods with the Lincoln Park and Canal Park business districts, the Lakewalk, and downtown Duluth. With six (6) miles of the trail already constructed, the City of Duluth is well on the way towards completing the vision where the Cross City Trail will connect to the Willard Munger State Trail terminus on Pulaski Street.

The City of Duluth has been awarded two grants to support construction in 2026 of the Cross City Trail at 6516 Grand Avenue for a section of trail adjacent to Kwik Trip between the Raleigh Street shared use path and Redruth Street (per the easement authorized in 26-0009R). Staff have been working through the environmental review and pre-contract documentation requirements for these grants and anticipate the grant agreements will be presented to City Council for review and approval in the coming months.

This resolution would authorize a grant application for the next segment of the CCT, west of the Kwik Trip segment, getting us closer to filling this final gap. This application is to the Federal Recreational Trail Program for up to \$200,000 to connect from the section along Kwik Trip to South 67th Avenue West. A complimentary grant application to the Regional Trail Program for up to \$300,000 for the same scope of work would allow the grant funds to match each other and alleviate the need for additional local matching contributions from the

City of Duluth. The Transportation Alternatives funding request of \$600,000 (authorized by 26-0060R) would support construction from the section along Kwik Trip to Fremont Street. See attached Exhibit A for maps of the referenced trail segments.

Together, these three grant applications would provide \$1,100,000 of state and federal funding to support continued development of the Cross City Trail if all three applications are successful. If the Federal Recreational Trail Program or Regional Trail Program grants are not awarded, the Transportation Alternatives funding would support the project. It is important to note that Transportation Alternatives funding would not be available until 2030, while the two other funding sources would be available beginning in 2026. If all three applications are awarded, then there would be an opportunity to request a scope change for the Transportation Alternatives funding for completion of the Cross City Trail. Between now and 2030, City of Duluth staff will need to continue reviewing the alignment options between Fremont Street and the existing Cross City Trail terminating at approximately 72nd Avenue West to inform any potential scope change to the Transportation Alternatives funding.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The Federal Recreational Trail Program grant would match an application to the Regional Trail Program and alleviate the need to commit local City matching.

OPTIONS: Approve or delay the opportunity to fund an additional segment of the Cross City Trail.

NECESSARY ACTION: Approve

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A: Maps of Referenced Cross City Trail Segments