

Council Agenda Item 26-0716R



MEETING DATE: August 10, 2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A REGIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT OF \$300,000 TO CONSTRUCT A PORTION OF THE CROSS CITY TRAIL.

SUBMITTED BY: Allison Brooks, Project Coordinator, Parks and Recreation

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: 17-0231R – authorized approval and implementation of the Cross City Trail Mini Master Plan.

22-0131R – authorized an application to the MN Department of Natural Resources for a Federal Recreational Trail Program Grant of up to \$150,000 to construct a portion of the Cross City Trail.

23-0264R – authorized an application to the MN Department of Natural Resources for a Regional Trail Program Grant of up to \$300,000 to construct a portion of the Cross City Trail.

26-0009R – authorized acceptance of a permanent easement from Kwik Trip, Inc. for public recreational, walkway and trail purposes over, under, and across certain real property in the Irving Neighborhood, at no cost to the City.

BACKGROUND: The Cross City Trail is envisioned as a multi-use accessible connection between the Willard Munger State Trail and the Lakewalk. The Cross City Trail is a critical alternative transportation option for residents and visitors providing connectivity between neighborhoods in western Duluth and commercial and business areas. It is the only paved trail in this area, and its completion will create a continuous route for multi-modal transportation through Duluth. Since the adoption of the Cross City Trail Master Plan in 2017, the City of Duluth has made steady progress towards implementation, and less than one mile of construction remains to complete the trail.

This resolution authorizes acceptance of a Regional Trail Program Grant in the amount of \$300,000 to construct a portion of the Cross City Trail between Raleigh Street and Grand Avenue. The permanent easement with Kwik Trip, Inc. authorized by 26-0009R is for property located at 6516 Grand Avenue, which will be the site for the new portion of the Cross City Trail. The required matching funds for the Regional Trail Program Grant will be a \$150,000 Federal Recreational Trail Program Grant.

The City of Duluth also sought and was awarded an additional Regional Trail Program Grant (authorized by 26-0132R) and Transportation Alternatives Funding from the MN Department of Transportation (authorized by

26-0060R), which will fund the next portion of Cross City Trail development between Redruth Street and Fremont Street. The portion of trail constructed within the Kwik Trip easement by the funding authorized by this resolution will be an important connection for trail construction in the coming years.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The Regional Trail Program Grant will match a Federal Recreational Trail Program Grant to provide a total project budget of \$450,000 with no local match required by the City of Duluth.

OPTIONS: Approve the grant or decline to halt continued development of the Cross City Trail and likely require the identification of alternative funding sources to construct the Cross City Trail.

NECESSARY ACTION: Accept the grant.

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Grant Agreement, Project Map