

Council Agenda Item 26-0596R



MEETING DATE: June 29, 2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON, INC., FOR A DULUTH ATV ROUTE STUDY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$172,006.85.

SUBMITTED BY: Cliff Knettel, Assistant Manager of Parks and Recreation

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: In December of 2024, resolution 24-0922R authorized application to the Minnesota DNR ATV Dedicated Account for up to \$200,000 to support a study of potential ATV routes in far western Duluth.

BACKGROUND: This resolution authorizes an agreement with SEH for professional services for an ATV Route Study. The City of Duluth does not currently allow ATV use in parks or on City streets. ATV-owning residents of far western Duluth, represented today by the Duluth-based nonprofit Head of the Lakes ATV Club, have long wanted the City to designate select routes in Duluth for ATV use to enable Duluth ATV riders to connect to the outlying statewide ATV trail network. An ATV route study is needed to determine appropriate locations for trailheads and routes to connect far western Duluth to the outlying Minnesota regional ATV trail system while identifying and mitigating conflicts between different trail user groups and protecting the most valuable and vulnerable natural resources from potential damage.

Staff have provided informational presentations of the proposed route study to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Natural Resources Commission. The City has also conducted some preliminary stakeholder engagement with the Head of the Lakes ATV Club, trail-based organizations, and environmental advocacy organizations.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The City of Duluth was recently awarded and contracted for \$200,000 from the MN DNR from their dedicated ATV Account. No local matching funds are required. There are no other currently identified funding options to support this work. SEH's proposal came in under budget.

OPTIONS: Approve the resolution to authorize the contract services to support the study; or deny the resolution to delay, halt, or change course at this time which could result in funds being returned to the state.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize the contract.

ATTACHMENTS: Agreement and proposal, attached as Exhibit A.