

INVEST IN ACCESS

TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

ABOUT THE REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

The City of Hastings has an extensive paved trail system comprising 30 miles in and around the City, with original construction dating to the early 1990s. Segments of the trail system connect to regional trails. The trail system is used extensively by youth and adult residents and visitors for exercise, recreation and non-motorized travel. Trail usage increased significantly due to COVID-19, with record numbers of residents and visitors seeking additional opportunities for outdoor recreation. The City of Hastings and Dakota County have jointly worked to improve linkages between the local trail system, the 10-Mile Loop, the Mississippi River Regional Trail (which connects St. Paul to Red Wing) the Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail and the Point Douglas Trail to Prescott, Wisconsin. The Hastings Tourism Bureau successfully markets the trail system as a regional attraction.



HASTINGS TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:

In 2019, a Trail Pavement Ratings & Recommendations study by Focus Engineering looked at 96 sections of trails and recommended a combination of reclamation, reconstruction, and ADA pedestrian ramp improvements throughout the City's 30-mile trail system.

Public Engagement: Trail improvements have been and will continue to be done in collaboration with the public. A strong public engagement process was used in the planning of trail improvements, the development of the City's Comprehensive Plan, as well as the City's People Movement Plan, which seeks to improve access and navigation for all who use the trails. The City recently received a Leaders in Local Government Award from the St. Paul Area Chamber for its People Movement Plan.

Regional Significance: The City's trail system serves as a regional hub that connects with the 10-Mile Loop, the Mississippi River Regional Trail (which connects St. Paul to Red Wing) the Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail and the Point Douglas Trail to Prescott, Wisconsin.

State Request: \$2.45 M





March 21, 2022

Senator Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Finance
Minnesota Senate Building, room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 3525

Dear Senator Ingebrigtsen

The City of Hastings supports SF 3525 for a general appropriation of \$2.45M toward design, construction, pavement renovation, and pedestrian accessibility improvements for the Hastings trail system.

This trail system is marketed by the Hastings Tourism Bureau as a regional attraction. The City of Hastings and Dakota County have jointly worked to improve linkages between the local trail system and ten-mile loop with the Mississippi River Regional Trail and Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail, as well as the Point Douglas Trail. The trail system is used extensively by youth and adult residents for exercise, recreation, and non-motorized travel, and this was seen all the more importantly during the pandemic with residents and visitors seeking additional opportunities for outdoor recreation.

A June 2019 study recommended a combination of reclamation, reconstruction, patching, and ADA pedestrian ramp improvements throughout the 30-mile trail system at an estimated cost approaching \$5 million.

Sincerely,

Mary Fasbender
Mayor

Tina Folch
Councilmember

Lori Braucks
Councilmember

Jen Fox
Councilmember

Lisa Leifeld
Councilmember

Trevor Lund
Councilmember

Mark Vaughan
Councilmember

CC: Senator Karla Bigham