

MAR 24 1997

WORKPROGRAM**Date of Report:** March 19, 1997**Date of Work Program Approval:****Date of Next Status Report:** when needed; min. December 1997 and December 1998 and June 1999**Project Completion Date(s):** Various**LCMR Work Program for 1997-1999 appropriation**

I. PROJECT TITLE: Mesabi Trail System

Project Manager: Robert Manzoline, Executive Director

Affiliation: St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority

Mailing Address: Northland Office Center, 307 S. First St. So. Room 113, Virginia, MN 55792

Telephone Number: (218)-749-0697 **Fax:** (218)-749-7123

**Total State Project Budget
(in thousands)**

<u>Fund/Desc.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Approp.</u>	<u>Liquid.</u>	<u>Encumb.</u>	<u>Balance</u>
LCMR	1993	700	700	0 0	0 0
For trail develop.					
LCMR	1995	150	0	121.5 120.4	28.5 29.6
For ISTEA match					
Bonding Bill	1996	500	0	500 500	0 0
For trail const.					
LCMR	1997	<u>600</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>600</u>
Approv. Request					
Totals		1,950	700	621.5 620.4	628.5 629.6

A. 1993 LCMR appropriation language Complete December 1995**ML 93 Chap. 172, Sec. 14. Subd. 10(r)****\$700,000**

Total biennial LCMR appropriation: \$700,000

Balance: \$0

Local Match requirement: \$350,000

Balance: \$0

This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of trade and economic development for a contract with the St. Louis and Lake County Regional Rail Authority to plan and begin acquiring and developing a 132 mile multi-purpose trail linking the Mesabi Iron Range between Grand Rapids and Ely.

This appropriation must be matched by \$350,000 cash from IRRRB or non-state funds.

ML 95; Chp. 220, Sec. 19, Subd. Extend project to December 31, 1995

Sources of Matching Funds:

1994 Target Corporation	\$20,000
1994 IRRRB	\$56,000
1994 Regents University of Minnesota	\$ 7,500
1994 St. Louis and Lake County RRA	\$51,000
1995 St. Louis and Lake County RRA	\$66,000
1995 Mesabi Daily News	\$ 5,000
1995 St. Louis County Block Grant	\$80,000
1995 Blandin Foundation	\$100,000
Private Donations and Other	<u>\$16,000</u>
Total	\$394,000

B. 1995 LCMR appropriation language. Approved, in part, August 1996

ML 95, Chap. 220, Sec. 19, Subd. 4(g).

Total biennial LCMR appropriation:	\$150,000	\$150,000
LCMR funds required for one-half nonfederal match:	\$121,500 <u>\$120,400</u>	
ISTEA match required:	\$1,200,000	
ISTEA amount committed through year 1999:	\$972,000 <u>\$835,186</u>	
Local share committed through year 1999:	\$121,500 <u>\$136,399</u>	

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from oil overcharge money to the commissioner of administration for the half of the nonfederal match of ISTEA projects for: (1) Chisago County, 150,000 for a trail between North Branch and Forest Lake Township; and (2) the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority, \$150,000 for the development of approximately 40 miles of a multipurpose recreational trail system. Chisago and the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority must apply for and receive approval for the Federal money in order to receive these appropriations. This project must be completed and final products delivered by December 31, 1997 and the appropriation is available until that date.

And as amended **Legal Citation ML 96, Chap. 407, Sec. 50, Subd. 4 (g).**

Amendment Language: The project under clause (2) must be completed and final products delivered by December 31, 1999, and the appropriation is available until that date.

C. 1996 Appropriation Language for Bonding Bill. Approved July 1996

MS 1996 Chap. 463, Sec. 7, Subd. 14. Mesabi Trail System

\$500,000

Total Bonding Bill appropriation:	\$500,000
Balance:	\$500,000

For a grant to the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority for completion of priority trail segments of the Mesabi trail System. This appropriation is available to the extent matched by monies from other sources.

June 1996 Work Program Request

Total appropriation:	\$500,000
Amount requested:	\$500,000
Appropriation spent to date:	\$0

Status of Match Requirement:

Match required: \$500,000
 Amount committed to date: \$500,000
 Match spent to date: \$0

Sources of Matching Funds is the St. Louis and Lake Counties Reg. Rail Auth.

D. 1997 LCMR appropriation language Approval requested

Legal Citation: ML 1997, Chap. ____, Sec. ____, Subd. ____ .

Project Number: N3

Total biennial LCMR appropriation:	\$600,000	\$600,000
Balance:	\$600,000	
Local Match requirement:	\$600,000	
Balance:	\$600,000	

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the Department of Natural Resources for an agreement with the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority for the development and land acquisition of trail segments. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$600,000 of nonstate money.

Status of Match Requirement:

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: This project will result in the construction of seven trail segments totaling 29.5 miles in length. In addition, 3.0 miles of trail will be rehabilitated to current bicycle trail standards. The State of MN, Department of Highway Bicycle Design Standards will be used for new and reconstructed trail design. This trail is being developed for multiple user groups in most areas and include snowmobiling, bicycling, roller blading, walking, skiing and in limited areas A.T.V., horseback, dogsled and other users. The Mesabi Trail makes connections to the Taconite Trail, local trails and many State Parks and facilities as shown on the General Location map. The 1997 LCMR funding and local match will result in an additional 16.5 miles of new trail and 2 miles of land acquisition.

III. ANNUAL PROGRAM UPDATE SUMMARY; September, 1996: This trail began construction in year 1994 and is anticipated to be completed in year 2004. Substantial completion of priority segments is expected in year 1999 when funding is secured. The following is a synopsis of trail segments that have been constructed and those segments approved for construction including funding.

<u>Segment Description</u>	<u>Year of Construction</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Major Funding Source</u>
Grand Rapids to Coleraine (Phase 1, Itasca Trail)	1994	Complete	4 miles	Local / MNDTED
Nashwauk to O'Brien Res.	1995	Complete	2 miles	LCMR/Local
Mt Iron to Parkville	1995	Complete	2 miles	LCMR / Local
Embarrass Lk to Giants Rdg. Rd..	1995	Complete	2 miles	LCMR

Cont.

<u>Segment Description</u>	<u>Year of Construction</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Major Funding Source</u>
Tower to Soudan	1995	Complete	1 mile	Local
Ely to Intl.. Wolf Center	1995	Complete	1 mile	LCMR / Local
Grand Rapids to Coleraine (Phase 2, Mesabi Trail)	1996	Bidding Complete	4 miles	Local
Biwabik to Embarrass Lk (Result 7)	1996	Bidding AWARDED	2 miles	Federal ISTE A / LCMR / Local
City of Ely (Result 6)	1996	Development	2 miles	Federal ISTE A / LCMR / Local
Coleraine to Bovey to Taconite (Result 1)	1996-1997	Development	5 miles	1996 State Bond / Local
O'Brien to Keewatin (Result 2)	1996-1997	Development	3 miles	1996 State Bond / Local
Hibbing to Chisholm (Result 3)	1996-1997	Development BIDDING	7 miles	1996 State Bond / Local
Mt. Iron to Virginia (Result 4)	1997	Development	2 miles	1996 State Bond / Local
Nashwauk to Marble (Result 9)	1997-1999	Land Acquisition		1997 LCMR / Local
Virginia to Gilbert (Result 10)	1997-1999	Development	5 miles	1997 LCMR / Local
Tower to Soudan State Park (Result 11)	1997-1999	Development	1 mile	1997 LCMR / Local
Ely/Wolf Center to Taconite tr.. (Result 12)	1997-1999	Development	1.5 miles	1997 LCMR / Local
Chisholm to Buhl (Result 13)	1997-1999	Development	3 miles	1997 LCMR / Local
Keewatin to Hibbing (Result 14)	1997-1999	Development	6 miles	1997 LCMR / Local
Buhl to Mt. Iron (Result 5)	1998	Planning	8 miles	Federal ISTE A / LCMR / Local
Gilbert to Eveleth/Fayal (Result 8)	1999	Planning	4 miles	Federal ISTE A / LCMR / Local
Total Miles			49 miles 65.5 miles	

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS: Results 1 through 5 were previously approved on June 8, 1995 and July 16, 1996. Results 6, 7 and 8 were previously approved on July 24, 1996. Approval is being requested for results 9,10,11,12,13 and 14.

1996 Bonding Approved July 16, 1996

RESULT #1 Develop a 5 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail segment between the cities of Coleraine to Bovey to Taconite.

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>1996 Work Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Const.	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
Land, Eng.&Adm.	<u>\$ 22,500</u>	<u>\$ 22,500</u>	<u>\$ 22,500</u>	<u>\$ 22,500</u>	<u>\$45,000</u>
Totals	\$172,500	\$172,500	\$172,500	\$172,500	\$345,000

1996 Bonding Approved July 16, 1996

RESULT#2 Rebuild and develop a 3 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail segment from the O'Brien Reservoir to the city of Keewatin.

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>1996 Work Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Overlay/Widen Trail	\$ 25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$ 50,000
Land, Eng.&Adm.	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,000</u>
Totals	\$ 29,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$ 58,000

1996 Bonding Approved July 16, 1996

RESULT#3 Develop a 7 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail segment between the cities of Hibbing and Chisholm.

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>1996 Work Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Const.	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$420,000
Land, Eng.&Adm.	<u>\$ 32,000</u>	<u>\$ 32,000</u>	<u>\$ 32,000</u>	<u>\$ 32,000</u>	<u>\$64,000</u>
Totals	\$242,000	\$242,000	\$242,000	\$242,000	\$484,000

1996 Bonding Approved July 16, 1996

RESULT#4 Develop a 1.5 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surface trail to extend the Mt. Iron trail segment into and Virginia using the remainder of the bonding appropriation.

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>1996 Work Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Const.	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$ 96,000
Land, Eng.&Adm.	<u>\$ 8,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,500</u>	<u>\$8,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,500</u>	<u>\$ 17,000</u>
Totals	\$56,500	\$56,500	\$56,500	\$56,500	\$113,000

* **March 18, 1997 Workprogram amendment request for the following results # 5, # 6, # 7 & # 8**

1995 LCMR Approved June 8, 1995

RESULT # 5 Develop a 8 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail between Buhl and the Mt. Iron West Two Rivers Recreation Area. This result was approved in work program dated June 8, 1995.

1996					
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>ISTEA</u>	<u>Local Share</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	
Trail Construction	\$30,000 \$37,500	\$300,000	\$37,500 \$30,000	\$367,500	
Land, Eng. & Adm.	\$ 7,500 0	0	0 \$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	
Totals	\$37,500 \$37,500	\$300,000	\$37,500 \$37,500	\$375,000	

1995 LCMR Approved July 24, 1996

RESULT#6 Develop a 2 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surface trail through the City of Ely.

1996					
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>ISTEA</u>	<u>Local Share</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	
Trail Construction	\$8,000 \$24,000	\$128,000	\$24,000 \$ 8,000	\$160,000	
Land	0 0	\$ 64,000	\$16,000 \$16,000	\$ 80,000	
Eng. & Adm.	\$16,000 0	0	0 \$16,000	\$ 16,000	
Totals	\$24,000 \$24,000	\$192,000	\$40,000 \$40,000	\$256,000	

1995 LCMR Approved July 24, 1996

* **RESULT#7** Develop a 2 mile long 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced segment between Biwabik and Embarrass Lake. A construction contract in the amount of \$168,983 was awarded February 1997 and the project is scheduled for completion in August 1997.

1996					
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>ISTEA</u>	<u>Local Share</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	
Trail Construction	\$10,000 \$24,898	\$208,000 \$135,186	\$42,000 \$ 8,899	\$260,000	\$168,983
Land, Eng. & Adm.	\$16,000 0	0 0	0 \$16,000	\$16,000	\$ 16,000
Totals	\$26,000 \$24,898	\$208,000 \$135,186	\$42,000 \$24,899	\$276,000	\$184,983

1995 LCMR Approved July 24, 1996

RESULT#8 Planning to develop a 4 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail segment between Gilbert and Eveleth.

1996					
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>ISTEA</u>	<u>Local Share</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	
Trail Construction	\$34,000	\$272,000 \$208,000	\$34,000 \$18,000	\$340,000	\$260,000
Land, Eng. & Adm.	0	0 0	0 \$16,000	0	\$ 16,000
Totals	\$34,000	\$272,000 \$208,000	\$34,000 \$34,000	\$340,000	\$276,000

Note: Results 5 through 8 only: In order to utilize LCMR funding as a full participatory match for ISTEA

* projects and to meet the requirements of the MN DOT State Aid, engineering costs will be considered as part of the Local Share.

October 21, 1996

Approval is requested for the following items:

1997 LCMR appropriation , July 1, 1997

RESULT # 9 Acquire lands between the Cities of Nashwauk and Marble to include lands in Nashwauk and 11,000 lf of abandon DM&IR Railroad grade.

	1997				
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Construction	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$68,000
Land, Eng. & Admin.	<u>\$ 6,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>
Totals	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$80,000

1997 LCMR appropriation, July 1, 1997

Result #10 Develop a 5 mile long, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail between Virginia and Gilbert. This segment is a continuation of the previously completed, LCMR funded, 2 mile segment of trail between Mt. Iron and Virginia and in coordination with Result #4. Final continuous length will be 8.5 miles.

	1997				
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Construction	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$340,000
Land, Eng. & Admin..	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Totals	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$390,000

1997 LCMR appropriation, July 1, 1997

Result #11 Develop a 1 mile, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail completing the City of Tower trail connecting to the City of Soudan and the Soudan State Park.

	1997				
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Construction	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 50,000
Land, Eng. & Admin..	<u>\$ 8,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 8,000</u>
Totals	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 58,000

1997 LCMR appropriation, July 1, 1997

Result #12 Develop a 1.5 mile, 10 foot wide bituminous surfaced trail within the City of Ely completing connections from the International Wolf Center to the Miners Lake mine site and the State of MN Taconite Trail .

	1997				
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Construction	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 78,000
Land, Eng. & Admin..	<u>\$ 14,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 14,000</u>
Totals	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 92,000

1997 LCMR appropriation, July 1, 1997

Result # 13 Develop a 3 mile, 10 foot wide bituminous surface trail from the City of Chisholm to the City of Buhl. This trail segment will connect to the City of Hibbing as seen in result # 3 and Mt. Iron West Two Rivers Recreation area as seen in result # 6 and in addition, connections will be made to result # 2 Keewatin and the previously completed Nashwauk Trail. This total continuous trail length is approximately 30 miles.

1997					
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Construction	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$150,000
Land, Eng. & Admin..	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Totals	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$180,000

1997 LCMR appropriation, July 1, 1996

Result # 14 Develop a 6 mile, 10 foot wide bituminous surface trail from the City of Keewatin to the City of Hibbing. Additional results are described in Result # 13 and as shown on enclosed map.

1997					
<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Program Request</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Trail Construction	\$170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$340,000
Land, Eng. & Admin.	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
Totals	\$ 200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000

V. CONTEXT:

A. Significance: The Mesabi Trail System is a 132 mile recreational trail linking over 22 communities across the Iron Range. It will run from Grand Rapids to Ely utilizing abandoned railways, logging and mine haul roads and existing bike trails. The trails will provide safe and healthy recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors. The 10-12 foot wide trail will be surfaced with bituminous overlay. The trail alignment will emphasize the historic, scenic, environmental and educational aspects of the region while also provident alternate transportation possibilities for local communities. It is destined to become a star-quality attraction to the tourism industry and give an economic boost to the entire region. The issue of steel studded snowmobile tracks damaging the asphaltic surface of the trails is of significant concern and being addressed by the Mesabi Trail Work Group and the St. Louis and Lake County Railroad Authority. The St. Louis and Lake County Rail Authority has adopted the following trail design and Rules regarding the use of studded snowmobile tracks on the asphaltic surface of the Mesabi Trail:

1. Wherever possible, the trail shall be designed and constructed to separate the groomed snowmobile surface from the asphaltic surface.
2. The trail ordinance will adopt State of MN opening and closing dates for snowmobile users as a general rule. The opening date is December 1 and closing date is April 1 of the following year.
3. Snowmobiles will be prohibited from using the trail unless a minimum of six (6) inches of compacted snow is in place. Gates will be closed if at any time snow conditions are less than six (6) inches.

B. Time: Anticipate this project to begin construction in late summer 1996 and be completed by the end of the 1997 construction season. We are requesting the 1997 LCMR funding be extended through the 1999 construction season or years end 1999.

C. Budget Context: See I.; A, B, C, D

VI. COOPERATION: This project is being constructed in cooperation with most of the 22 cities indicated on the general location map. Formal cooperative agreements have been signed with the Cities of Ely, Biwabik, Mt. Iron, Nashwauk and Itasca County. Resolutions of support have been received from most Cities and many Townships along the trail corridor.

VII. LOCATION: The Ecological classification is generally forested.

IX. PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORTS: Periodic progress reports will be presented as needed and in accordance with the following schedule:

	October 21, 1997
*	<u>March 18, 1997</u>
	December 1997
	December 1998
	June 1999