

JUL - 6 2000

Date of Progress Report: June 30, 2000
Date of Next Status Report: Final
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2000

LCMR Work Program 1997

i. **Project Title:** Chippewa County Regional Trail, N-4

Project Manager: Steve Jones
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Total Biennial Project Budget:

\$ LCMR:	400,000.00	\$ Req'd Match	\$ 226,000.00
\$ LCMR Spent:	378,928.00	\$ Match Amount Spent	204,595.00
\$ LCMR Balance:	<u>21,072.00</u>	\$ Match Balance	<u>21,405.00</u>

A. **Legal Citation:** Minnesota Laws 1997, Chap. 216, Sec. 15, subd. 18(b)
Subd. Parks and Trails
CHIPPEWA COUNTY REGIONAL TRAIL \$400,000

Appropriation Language: "This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the department of natural resources for an agreement with the City of Montevideo for the second biennium to complete the construction of the Chippewa County Regional Trail System in Montevideo. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$226,000 of nonstate money. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2000, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the workprogram."

B. **Status of Match Requirement:** \$226,000 in cash of non-state funds already has been committed, through a combination of federal (ISTEA), city and local school district funds.

II. Project Summary and Results: Overall, this LCMR project developed approximately 9.8 additional miles of the 16.2 mile Chippewa County Regional Trail System. LCMR funds were used to construct two final core segments of the system. This will assist local planners in completing the core of the system, providing needed linkages to all prior segments, and connecting major regional and local facilities located on the trail.

LCMR funds were coordinated with the required \$226,000 in non-state cash match and over \$200,000 of local in-kind materials and services.

III. Progress Summary:

Results 1, 2 & 3 of this workprogram were completed on schedule, in fall/summer 1998. Result 2 exceeded projected construction costs by \$69,655.58, requiring an amendment to the workprogram.

Bids relating to Result 4 (Segment 5) were let and awarded, and this element of the project is completed within the budget described in this workprogram.

As expected when the first workprogram amendment was submitted for approval (January 1998), the LCMR 1997-99 funds available under this workprogram for Result 5 (Segment 6) will not be sufficient to complete this result. This relates to the loss of separately appropriated funds on December 31, 1997.

Result 6 is ongoing and has successfully facilitated Results 1-4.

IV. Outline of Project Results: The Chippewa County Regional Trail System is comprised of six (6) segments. These segments are shown on the attached map. (Please refer to the map for visual representation of the project results discussed below.)

LCMR 1997 funding will complete Segments 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the system.

Construction of Segment 5 also links area schools, residential neighborhoods and a regional community center to the central business district of the county seat. Construction of Segment 6 ties the entire system into two (2) Chippewa County Historical Society sites, several regional parks, and Montevideo's city hall.

Result One: Construct approximately 2.75 miles of trail linkages to the system's middle segment, Segment 5. Budget for this result is construction only.

LCMR/FRF Budget:	\$ 30,000.00
Balance:	0.00

Completion Date for This Result: December 31, 1998.

Status: COMPLETED IN SUMMER/FALL 1998.

Result Two: Construct approximately 1.75 miles of trail along the system's northerly segment, Segment 3. Budget for this result is construction only.

LCMR/FRF Budget: \$280,000.00
Balance: 0.00

Completion Date for This Result: December 31, 1998.

Status: COMPLETED IN SUMMER/FALL 1998.

Result Three: Construct one new trail wayside at the wetlands on the northerly segment, Segment 2.

LCMR/FRF Budget: \$ 10,000.00
Balance: 0.00

Completion Date for This Result: December 31, 1998.

Status: COMPLETED IN SUMMER/FALL 1998

Result Four: Segment 5 of the trail system is completed. Approximately 3.0 miles of off-road trail will be graded, constructed and paved (10'-12' width, 2.0" thick.) Approximately 0.3 miles of on-road trail will be designated as trail route and will be signed or painted. This result also includes minor enhancements to a historic railroad depot that is situated on the trail at the juncture of Segments 5 & 6 (which trail juncture is created by this project.) Costs include engineering, design assistance, construction and related restoration and landscaping costs.

Note: Development of most of Segment 5 was managed according to Mn/DOT standards for approved ISTEA projects. The S.P. number for that portion of the project is 143-090-01. Construction of the elements funded by this LCMR appropriation were planned and let separately from the ISTEA project, however, due to the higher expense and administrative detail required under regulations governing ISTEA projects.

Budget for Completing Segment 5: Segment 5 will cost \$401,000 to complete. Of this total, \$125,000 will come from in-kind donations of planning, engineering, project management and materials. The cash portion will come from:

LCMR 1997	\$ 50,000.00
ISTEA	180,000.00
Local Cash	<u>46,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 276,000.00

LCMR Budget:	\$ 50,000.00	Match:	\$ 226,000.00
LCMR Balance:	\$ <u>0.00</u>	Match Balance:	\$ <u>21,405.00</u>

Completion Date for This Result: June 30, 2000

Status: Result 4 (Segment 5) has been completed. The engineer will release the final estimate on the ISTE A segment (local match portion) when final paperwork is done. We will send the final papers when available.

Result Five: Approximately 2.0 miles of off-road trail will be engineered (10'-12' width, 2.0" thick.)

Budget for Completing Segment 6: Segment 6 will cost \$179,000.00 to complete. Of this total, \$89,000 will come from in-kind donations of planning, engineering, project management and materials. In-kind services will be performed before LCMR funds are spent. The cash portion will come from:

LCMR 1997	\$ <u>20,000.00</u>
Local Cash	
TOTAL	\$ <u>20,000.00</u>

LCMR Budget:	\$ 20,000.00	Match:	\$ 0.00
LCMR Balance:	\$ 20,000.00	Match Balance:	\$ <u> </u>

Completion Date for This Result: Will not be used

Status: FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER RESULT FIVE WERE NOT USED.

Result Six: A part-time project manager will be hired, to work under the city manager and project manager, for completion of this project.

Budget for Result Four: Wages and administrative expenses associated with the project manager position will be paid from the LCMR appropriation.

LCMR 1997	\$ 10,000.00
Local Cash	0.00
TOTAL	\$ <u>10,000.00</u>

LCMR Budget:	\$ 10,000.00	Match:	\$ 0.00
LCMR Balance:	1,072.00	Match Balance:	0.00

Completion Date for This Result: Hire Date: July 1, 1997
Termination Date: July 30, 1999

Status: A PART-TIME PROJECT MANAGER WAS HIRED IN JULY 1997 AND CONTINUED WITH THE PROJECT THROUGH SPRING OF 1998. IN SPRING OF 1998, THAT PROJECT MANAGER WAS REPLACED BY LARRY FIGGINS, AN EXPERIENCED COUNTY AND MN/DOT HIGHWAY ENGINEER. MR. FIGGINS TOOK OVER AS PROJECT MANAGER AND COORDINATED COMPLETION OF RESULTS 1, 2 & 3.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS CURRENTLY ARE BEING COORDINATED BY THE CITY MANAGER, WITHOUT REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS APPROPRIATION.

V. **Dissemination of Project Results:** This system was developed partly as a stimulus and model for other communities along the Minnesota River Valley, from Mankato to Ortonville. Already, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) is contacting other communities and encouraging the use of the Chippewa County Regional Trail System as a model for planning, given the outstanding coordination of numerous regional and local cooperators. Locally, the files are well organized and the planning activities have been documented from the outset. These files have the personal experiences of the people involved in the planning effort already have been publicized in and utilized by other communities in the region.

VI. **Context.**

A. **Significance:** The core of the Chippewa County Regional Trail System is best understood as an urban trail system, rather than a "Point A to Point B" trail. The core of the system is situated in the county seat, with "spurs" and "feeders" to other regional sites and landings on the Minnesota River.

The core of the trail system consists of approximately 16.2 miles of paved 10'-12' wide trail. The majority of these miles (12.0 miles) are off-road, with the balance (4.2 miles) provided by lane painting and trail signage on existing city streets with low traffic counts. As such, the trail system will serve a broad cross-section of community residents and visitors, including students, commuters, seniors, hikers, joggers, bicyclists, etc. Based on regional use of the community's parks and historic sites, the city estimates that more than 30,000 residents and non-residents will use the trail annually.

Overall, the Chippewa County Regional Trail System will enhance approximately 230 acres of park and riparian lands for educational and recreational use. Water enhancement projects, necessary to trail construction on the westerly segment, also will improve the treatment of storm water flowing through an abandoned channel of the Chippewa River to the Minnesota River. The completed system will link Chippewa County's Historic Pioneer Village, 1901 Milwaukee Road Depot and railyards, city hall, the central business district, a regional park system in the city, Independent School District #129 facilities, and residential neighborhoods.

Eventually, the Chippewa County Regional Trail System will be the "hub" to a larger system, running north to Ortonville and Brown's Valley and south to Mankato (along the Minnesota River Valley.) This system already is serving as a model and stimulus for sustainable development for other communities along the river valley. The river roads linking these communities recently were designated as a "scenic byway" by the Department of Transportation. Also, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission has begun discussions of a longer trail, linking the river communities from Mankato to Ortonville. Students, businesses, city government, residents and tourists will use the trail system to increase their knowledge of and appreciation for the Upper Minnesota River.

- B. Time:** The City of Montevideo requests that it be permitted to use this grant through June 30, 2000. Construction is expected to be completed by December 31, 1999, but minimal additional work and administrative detail may be required in Spring 2000 to finish the project described in this workprogram.
- C. Budget Context:** The core of the Chippewa County Regional Trail System is being developed pursuant to a five-year, \$1.8 Million construction plan. Of this \$1.8 Million total, local in-kind donations of planning, engineering, project management and materials account for over \$350,000. The cash balance has come from a combination of state and non-state public and private sources.

"Spurs" and "feeders" for this core system to other regional sites and landings on the Minnesota River are planned, but these will be developed separately from the core system. At this time, no funding requests are pending for these spurs. Construction of the spurs is scheduled for after the year 2000.

Please refer to the attached map for visual representation of the segments related to this explanation of the system.

- (1) **Segment 1** is a 4.8 mile segment that leads from a boat access on the Minnesota River near Wegdahl to the outskirts of Montevideo, the county seat. This segment was completed in 1996.

Funding for the construction of Segment 1 came from federal ISTEAs dollars and local (Chippewa County) cash match, totaling \$184,227.

- (2) **Segments 2 & 3** represent approximately 4.5 miles of trail. A trail wayside being developed on Segment 2 will be used as an outdoor classroom for regional schools studying agricultural policies and biology/environmental issues. These two segments were completed under this workprogram.

Segments 2 & 3 will cost \$470,000 to develop. A 1996 legislative appropriation from the future resources fund (FRF) contributed \$160,000 of this total. Another \$60,000 comes from in-kind donations of planning, engineering, project management and materials. The balance of \$250,000 comes from this 1997 LCMR grant.

- (3) **Segment 4** is a small section of the trail that links Segment 1 to Segment 5. This segment was developed under a DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant and was completed in December 1997.

Segment 4 will cost \$80,000 to develop. The DNR Outdoor Rec Grant accounts for \$40,000 of this total, and \$40,000 comes from in-kind donations of planning, engineering, project management and materials.

- (4) **Segments 5 & 6** represent the remaining 5.3 miles of trail to be constructed under this workprogram.

Segments 5 & 6 will cost \$590,000 to develop. The LCMR appropriation comprises \$80,000 of this total. The required \$226,000 of non-state cash match under the LCMR 1997 appropriation will come from federal ISTEAs, City of Montevideo funds, and Independent School District #129 funds. Local in-kind donations of planning, engineering, project management and materials account for approximately \$284,000 of the total cost of development these two segments.

	Future Expenditures		
	<u>7/94-6/97</u>	<u>7/97-6/2000</u>	<u>12/99-6/2001</u>
FRF 1996	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00
DNR Outdoor Rec	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
LCMR 1997	0.00	400,000.00	0.00
ISTEA	122,474.00	180,000.00	0.00
Local Cash Match	61,753.00	46,000.00	0.00
Local In-Kind	60,000.00	313,100.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$304,227.00	\$1,079,100.00	\$ 0.00

The total budget for use of the LCMR appropriation is as follows:

Personnel	\$ 10,000.00
Equipment	0.00
Acquisition	0.00
Development	390,000.00
Other	0.00
TOTAL	\$ 400,000.00

VII. Cooperation:

Chippewa County Board of Commissioners
Chippewa County Historical Society
Independent School District #129
Clean Up Our River Environment (CURE)
Montevideo Area Chamber of Commerce
Montevideo Parks and Recreation Board
Montevideo Kiwanis Club
Montevideo Noon Lions Club
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC).

VIII. Location: Q — Minnesota River Prairies.

IX. Reporting Requirements: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than: **(1)** January 31, 1998, and **(2)** January 31, 1999. A final workprogram report and associated products will be submitted by **(3)** June 30, 2000.