

The minimum length for a trail project is usually one-third to one-half mile. With the additional costs and reporting requirements associated with federal funding projects should be at least \$150,000 in federal funding. The TA program has a maximum federal share of \$290,000 with an 80/20 split. The maximum project cost to qualify for federal funding is approximately \$360,000 (\$150,000 local and \$290,000 federal).

Potential projects:

- University Avenue from the trailer park entrance to North 48th Street: Currently has a 5' wide sidewalk and connects to shared-use paths on both ends. Connecting these shared-use paths will constitute a "last segment." This project provides a direct connection to UND residential housing. There are also two bus stops located in this area.
- 17th Avenue South from South 26th Street to South 20th Street: Currently has a 5' wide sidewalk and connects to a shared-use path at South 26th Street. There are no bike path connections at South 20th Street. This segment is in front of Red River High School.
- 32nd Avenue South from South 48th Street to Heartland Drive and South 48th Street from 17th Avenue South to 32nd Avenue South: Currently a gravel bike path. This area has not had a lot of development yet, and will likely be a good candidate as the area develops. The project would likely be phased into 3 or more segments in order to make it worthwhile for TA funding. This gravel bike path will connect with businesses in the developing business park such as FedEx, Acme Tools, and other businesses in the area.
- 47th Avenue South from South Columbia Road to South 20th Street: There is currently no sidewalk or bike path on the south side of the street. The City applied for TA funding last year. The project was ranked 8 of 11 in the grading process. It is located near South Middle School and adjacent to Ulland Park. It connects to a shared-use path on South 20th Street but would not connect to anything at South Columbia Road. This segment of 47th Avenue S is scheduled for reconstruction and widening in 2018. It is not known yet if a shared-use path will be installed at that time.
- South Columbia Road 40th Avenue South to 47th Avenue South: Currently has no sidewalk or bike path. The City applied for TA funding last year but the project was ranked 11 of 11 in the grading process.
- South Columbia Road from 14th Avenue South to 17th Avenue South: This segment is approximately ¼ mile in length and shorter than projects usually recommended for TA funding. The right turn lane project on Columbia Road is coming up next year, with a possibility of including a wider sidewalk for the length of the right turn lane. This is not guaranteed but staff will look the idea.

Any additional recommendations should be sent to David by the end of next week. This will give him time to gather information on the suggestion.

Suggestions and questions about bikeway connections and repairs:

- The underpass on Gateway Drive needs pavement work at both approaches.
- Elks Drive: Can lights or better signage be added to this intersection? Crossing Belmont from Elks Drive is very challenging.
- Where are the project lists from previous community input meetings? Can that be used? David will look into these lists.

- Can grant money be used for wayfinding signs? Possibly. It would have to be included as part of a project. There are no wayfinding sign plans adopted for either city at this time.

4. MPO: Update on Bicycle & Pedestrian Activities: Minnesota Bicycle Plan (Update):
See attached. No MPO staff present for discussion.

B. Greenway items

1. **Vandalism concerns:** The City of GF is looking into a few vandalism incidents in the Sunbeam area. Trees are being cut down with chain saws.
2. **Greenway Takeover Festival:** HB Sound & Light will be hosting a four-day festival in the GF portion of the Greenway. This is an opportunity to spotlight this area as a site for community festivals.
3. **Freezeway project:** Nick would like to avoid areas that are highly used in the winter. Two potential sites have been identified so far:
 - i. Lincoln Drive Park – west of the dog park
 1. Trail could be 150 yards in length
 2. Possibly too far from the warming house
 - ii. Downtown GF
 1. Trail could be 600 yards in length
 2. Lighting and warming house nearby on other side of levee
 3. High visibility

The BPGAC group chose to recommend the downtown site for the 2017 – 2018 season. Howard Swanson, GF City Attorney, is working on a user agreement between the City of GF and Freezeway, LLC. Kim will forward that agreement to Nick when it is ready for signing.

The skating trail will be 12' wide with flexible boards on both sides. Nick believes that the boards being used for the trail are safer than what the park district uses for their rinks because they are more flexible. He plans to give the equipment to GF Park District or City when the 18 month grant period is finished

Nick stated that he has met with the GF Park District and they will be filling the trail with water. He and his group will be handling the daily maintenance of the trail. **Discussion on clarification has happened since this meeting.*

Nick plans to watch activity in the Greenway over winter for usage and where to expand the trail could possibly be expanded in the future.

Questions from the group:

- How will skaters make the connection between the ice rink in Town Square to trail: Rubber mats will be placed on the sidewalk to make the connection.
- How will uneven surfaces be handled? Nick will be looking into that challenged but it might be something like the lock system used for boats.

C. Next meeting date: 7PM, Tuesday, October 10, 2017, GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, Grand Forks, ND – Room A102

Supporting documents: MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan –Update dated September 12, 2017
Maps of potential locations for Freezeway 2017
Map of completed bikeway projects in GF 2017

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks



MPO Staff Report
Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Group, September 12th, 2017
Update on Bicycle & Pedestrian Activities

Update on Bicycle & Pedestrian Activities: Minnesota Bicycle Plan (Update)

BACKGROUND:

A number of activities with the potential of positively impacting bicycle and pedestrian activities in the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MPO Study Area are currently being advanced:
These activities include:

- a) MnDOT District 2 Bicycle Plan 2017-2018
- b) Update on Part II: Barriers, Impediments and Obstacles to Pedestrian and Bicycling Activities; and Part III: Existing Conditions Report of the Grand Forks- East Grand Forks Bicycle and Pedestrian Element
- c) Update of the North Dakota Active Transportation Plan

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- a) MnDOT District 2 Bicycle Plan 2017-2018
- Request for Input & Comments:

As part of the Public Engagement Process, the leading Project Team has developed an online interactive map (or Wikimap) as a tool to solicit feedback from stakeholders on the data analysis and bicycle routing results. On the top of the Wikimap page there is a legend that explains the content on the map, as well as instructions on how to provide input. The primary purpose of the Wikimap is to review the bicycle routing results (shown in dark blue lines) from the GIS analysis, and provide suggestions for alternative routes that are better suited for bicycling than the routing results shown. Please provide input on the East Grand Forks- Grand Forks area:

Wikimap link: <http://wikimapping.net/wikimap/MNDOTDistrict.html>

Instructions to provide input on the Wikimap:

1. First, enter your email address when you first access the Wikimap.
2. Click on 'add route' in the top left of the page, then select 'Alternative Route'
3. Click on the beginning of the alternative route that you would like to suggest, and draw a line along the roadway or trail that you are suggesting. When you finish drawing the alternative route, select 'Done drawing' or double click on your last point.
4. After drawing your route, add a description about the route and explain WHY this route is a better alternative than the route shown from the analysis.
5. Remember, you can also provide comments on alternative routes that others have drawn on the Wikimap. To do that, click on the light blue lines, type your own comment in the text box, then click 'Add Comment'.

Deadline to provide input on this Wikimap tool is Friday, September 29th