



## Resolution 2023-127

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO PROVIDE COMMISSIONERS WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES AS IT RELATED TO THE OCTOBER 2000 BIKEWAYS PROJECT FINAL REPORT ON OR BY AUGUST 3, 2023 AND CONTINUE WORK TO PREPARE A REGIONAL TRAIL PLAN AND A CAPITAL ONLY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY THAT IS ALIGNED WITH THE SUBMITTED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN AND THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL BY MPRB AND THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) was founded in 1883 and is the steward of the Minneapolis park and trail system;

Whereas, MPRB is identified by the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) as the Implementing Agency responsible for 8 regional parks and 12 regional trails;

Whereas, The Met Council established the Midtown Greenway as a Regional Trail Search Corridor in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, adopted in 2020;

Whereas, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) or the City of Minneapolis (City), depending on the trail segment, is the underlying landowner of the Midtown Greenway and the City owns the trail;

Whereas, On September 28, 2022, MPRB staff submitted to the Board a Community Engagement Plan for the Midtown Greenway Regional Trail Planning process including a multi-agency Joint Powers Agreement, both of which are requirements for incorporation of the Midtown Greenway into the regional trail system;

Whereas, On March 15, 2023, MPRB staff presented initial findings to the Board of Commissioners related to the regional trail planning process for the Midtown Greenway;

Whereas, The Commissioners had a robust conversation about a series of scenarios for MPRB's involvement in the Midtown Greenway, including a capital-only scenario, and expressed concerns about operations, management, costs, safety, and ownership, and the financial obligations related to a possible MPRB role in the Midtown Greenway;

Whereas, Though MPRB fully owns and operates most of the regional trails in Minneapolis, several regional trails exist on property owned by others and are managed jointly by several agencies;

Whereas, The Board of Commissioners, in order to act responsibly relative to its financial obligations intended to perpetuate those regional trails and to determine a proper role for the MPRB in the Midtown Greenway should it become a regional trail, desires information related to all Joint Power Agreement regional trails;

Whereas, Information related to current operations, potential costs of operations, and scenarios for possible roles in operations of the Midtown Greenway in collaboration with other agencies is foundational to the assembly of a plan for the Midtown Greenway;



Whereas, The collected information can be instructive in the MPRB's ongoing agreement for trails where aspects of operations, management, and ownership are directed to entities other than the MPRB;

Whereas, Consistency in operations, management, and ownership of regional trails, to the degree practicable, is desirable for trail users and for the MPRB's planning and continued administration of its regional trail system;

Whereas, New capital improvements, such as wayfinding kiosks, signage, benches, and picnic tables were identified as desirable in this trail corridor in existing Midtown Greenway planning documents;

Whereas, Hennepin County (County), HCRRA, and the City already maintain and improve the Midtown Greenway corridor based on the 2000 Bikeways Project Final Report (Report), an MPRB plan will only clarify these existing responsibilities and not bind, imply, or subject MPRB to any of these responsibilities and provide access to funding that the MPRB can access as an implementing agency of the regional park and trail system; and

Whereas, The Report was a collaboration between MPRB and the City and part of a joint service redesign project that considered the role and responsibility of both agencies for several types of public infrastructure within the city;

Whereas, The Report established a Joint Planning Process (Process) for new trails and also roles and responsibilities for the development, operations, and maintenance of on-street and off-street trails and bikeways in the City of Minneapolis for existing and planned on- and off-street trail infrastructure, which has not been superseded;

Whereas, The Report considered all potential scenarios including the participation of other government partners especially in cases where neither the City nor the MPRB would own the land under the bikeway;

Whereas, The Report documented the responsible parties for all segments of the Midtown Greenway ranging from segments that were already built to those that were in the planning phase and the MPRB was not identified as a responsible party for any of the segments;

Whereas, The Report identifies the Trail Owner, Jurisdiction (Property) Ownership, and Maintenance Responsibility and serves as an overall joint powers agreement for all of the existing, under construction and planned trails in 2000;

Whereas, The Trail Owner has overall responsibility for the trail including capital improvements and there is an option to define another party with Maintenance Responsibility;

Whereas, For the Midtown Greenway the City of Minneapolis is identified in the role of Trail Owner and Maintenance Responsibility for all segments in the Report;

Whereas, The City may request assistance from other entities, but is ultimately responsible for the Midtown Greenway and serving users of the trail;

Whereas, The Midtown Greenway must have an approved long range plan for regional park and trail funding to be allocated to it;

Whereas, The MPRB is the implementing agency that would produce and seek approval for a regional park or trail master plan within the City;



Whereas, there are many immediate funding needs within MPRB's regional park and trail system;

Whereas, MPRB's regional park and trail system is not funded to the levels needed for capital improvements or identified in state statute for maintenance and operation;

Whereas, in approving regional trail planning for the Greenway the Board of Commissioners is signaling to the public a desire to expand our regional footprint;

Whereas, Greenway regional trail planning would be coming from the general budget, which already significantly supports the regional park system;

Whereas, for MPRB to say it will provide "capital funding only" is a broad term inferring provision of all new amenities and infrastructure on the Greenway;

Whereas, in designating the Greenway as a regional trail, MPRB would receive approximately \$70,000 annually from the Met Council for improvements;

Whereas, there are many current bonding needs within the Minneapolis park system;

Whereas, This resolution is supported in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, under Goal 5: "Expand focus on health equity," Goal 4: "Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships," and Goal 3: "Provide core services with care;"

Resolved, MPRB staff shall provide commissioners with an overview of MPRB's responsibility as it relates to the October 2000 Bikeways Project Final Report on or by August 3, 2023;

Resolved, MPRB staff will amend the September 28, 2022 Community Engagement Plan posted in Petitions and Communications. Strike "clarify MPRB's role in the ownership and operations of the trail," to simply "clarify MPRB's role in the trail" in second to last sentence.

Resolved, That the Board of Commissioners directs staff to continue work to prepare a regional trail plan and a capital-only Joint Powers Agreement for the Midtown Greenway that defines how capital funding would be allocated and used to implement capital projects in the event that is aligned with the MPRB's community engagement policy and that can be considered for approval by MPRB and the Met Council;

Resolved, MPRB capital-only funding for the Greenway will be restricted to lower-cost new amenities like wayfinding, drinking fountains, portable restrooms, picnic tables, community gardens and similar like items that could be supported by an approximately \$70,000 annual budget. MPRB's capital-only funding will exclude high-cost items including new ramp infrastructure, lighting, permanent restrooms, pavement repaving, trail expansions and like-items. The new capital-only amenities provided by MPRB will be maintained by the City, County, and HCRRA as the current and ongoing Greenway operations and maintenance providers.

Resolved, The Greenway regional trail planning process will collect public input within the detailed narrow scope of lower-cost amenities (wayfinding, additional gardens, picnic tables) and not collect



public input around high-cost capital items which would be supported by city/county state funding requests like access ramps, lights, trail expansions, etc.

Resolved, Funding, implementation, and maintenance of high-cost capital needs on the Greenway including infrastructure like ramps and lighting, will be provided by the City, County, and HCRRRA. All state funding requests for the Greenway will be made by the City and County, not MPRB. This will protect MPRB's commitment to our current MPRB state funding requests to finish the Grand Rounds and other important regional projects.



TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Commissioner Alper

DATE: June 21, 2023

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO CONTINUE WORK TO PREPARE A REGIONAL TRAIL PLAN AND A CAPITAL ONLY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY THAT IS ALIGNED WITH THE SUBMITTED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN AND THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL BY MPRB AND THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL, AND TO EXPAND RESEARCH ON OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT, COSTS, AND OWNERSHIP OF THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY TO INCLUDE OTHER REGIONAL TRAILS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF BUT NOT OWNED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD AS DECISION-MAKING GUIDANCE FOR THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY AND OTHER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL REGIONAL TRAILS

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## **BACKGROUND**

Resolution submitted on behalf of Commissioner Alper.

### **Past Actions**

*D 2023-17: Midtown Greenway Regional Trail Plan and Operations Research Findings and Discussion*

*PC 2022-37: Midtown Greenway Community Engagement Assessment and Plan*

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Resolution submitted on behalf of Commissioner Alper.

**Goal:**

**Strategy:**

**Attachments:**

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*Jbr 6.21.2023.*