Resolution 2013-203

Resolution of Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Support for the Development of the Mississippi River Trail (U.S. Bicycle Route 45)

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of Minneapolis Parks;

Whereas, Bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, presently contributing approximately $47 billion dollars a year nationally to the economies of communities that provide facilities for said tourism;

Whereas, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has designated a corridor along the Mississippi River to be developed as United States Bike Route 45;

Whereas, The Minnesota Department of Transportation has convened several public meetings during the previous three years locally and throughout the river's corridor to gather information, review route alternatives and to provide assistance;

Whereas, The Minnesota Department of Transportation in cooperation with road and trail authorities have proposed a specific route to be designated as the Mississippi River Trail (USBR 45) (*Attachment A*);

Whereas, The proposed Mississippi River Trail (USBR 45) traverses parkland owned and maintained by the MPRB and is expected to provide a benefit to local residents and businesses;

Whereas, The Minnesota Department of Transportation will continue to maintain statewide mapping and information regarding Mississippi River Trail (USBR 45), convene meetings and facilitate the resolution of issues and future alignment revisions within the State;

Whereas, The MPRB has duly considered the proposed route and determined it to be a suitable route and supports the formal designation of the route so that it can be appropriately mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism locally and throughout Minnesota along the Mississippi River; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions “Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community”;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners support development of the Mississippi River Trail

(U.S. Bicycle Route 45); and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning

DATE: June 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Resolution of Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Support for the Development of the Mississippi River Trail (U.S. Bicycle Route 45)

BACKGROUND

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) initiated an application to designate the metro section of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) between Elk River and Hastings as a United States Bicycle Route (USBR). USBR is a national network of bicycle routes. The designation is an opportunity to promote bicycle use in and through Minneapolis and to celebrate the 2012 MN Legislature naming the MRT as Minnesota's first authorized bikeway. As a property owner and manager of trails along the route, the MPRB is invited to pass a resolution supporting the MRT. Support from all road and trail authorities along the MRT is required to move this USBR application forward. If the MPRB approves this resolution, all of the authorities along the route will have provided support for the MRT.

Over the past few years, MnDOT convened meetings along the river to invite local road and trail authorities to join in identifying an exciting bicycle adventure route along the Mississippi River within Minnesota. The process revealed grass-root support for taking something that already exists (low use roads, roads with shoulders and off-road trails) and creating a bicycle route with appeal to local, regional, national and even international users.

Park staff has worked with MnDOT staff to agree upon a future signage approach for the route. This approach will coordinate with the Grand Rounds signage and maximize wayfinding. The approach satisfies the interests of MnDOT and addresses MPRB concerns about signage proliferation within Minneapolis parks.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends supporting the development of the Mississippi River Trail (U.S. Bicycle Route 45).

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statements in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Vision Theme 3: Dynamic parks shape city character and meet diverse community needs.

Goal: Parks shape an evolving city.

HISTORY:

05/22/13 **Planning Committee** **ADOPTED**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A. MRT Route in Minneapolis (PDF)

Prepared By: Jennifer Ringold, Manager of Public Engagement & Citywide Planning, Strategic Planning
Review:
Jennifer Ringold Completed 05/09/2013 1:28 PM
Bruce Chamberlain Completed 05/09/2013 3:59 PM
Jayne Miller Completed 05/09/2013 9:21 PM
Planning Committee Completed 05/30/2013 4:47 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pending