



Jess L. Greenwood, P.E.
Public Works Director – County Engineer

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office: (651) 385.3025

TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess L. Greenwood, P.E. – Public Works Director / County Engineer

RE: 17 December 2024 County Board Meeting – **CONSENT AGENDA**
City of Zumbrota Bridge Replacement Project

Date: 11 December 2024

Summary

It is requested that the County Board approve the attached resolution to sponsor a project to replace recently closed Bridge 25583 in the City of Zumbrota.

Background

On November 21, 2024, Bridge 25583, owned by the City of Zumbrota, was closed due to safety concerns. The 121-year-old trestle structure, which used to serve as a railroad crossing, was repurposed to serve as a river crossing for a pedestrian trail. More recently, the trail has also been used by the local snowmobile club. The City of Zumbrota has actively pursued available funding options as well as legislatively designated funds for the last several years but unfortunately have not been selected or allocated replacement dollars. The City is proposing to make some repairs to the bridge in an effort to allow for use by pedestrians. The proposed repairs are anticipated to be short-term, however, with replacement being necessary to allow for long-term use of the crossing and trail.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) recently opened a competitive funding solicitation for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. The TA Program is a more recently developed program that replaces funding from historical programs that include Transportation Enhancements, Scenic Byways, Safe Routes to School, and several other discretionary programs with a competitive program that will be developed by each individual state.

The solicitation for Greater Minnesota consists of \$12.5 million in available grant funding across the state through the individual seven area transportation partnerships (ATP). The application period opened on December 2, 2024, and the deadline for applicants to submit is January 10, 2025. Each ATP will have a deadline of April 15, 2025 to select TA projects.

Goodhue County has historically been requested to participate as a project sponsor by the communities that do not meet the population threshold of 5,000. The County acted as the fiduciary for the Jefferson Street reconstruction project in Zumbrota. To qualify for the TA dollars, cities, like Zumbrota, are required to have a sponsoring agency. The County would only serve as project sponsor if the project is awarded funding.

"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"

If selected for a TA grant, the City would be completely responsible for all expenses, design, construction, etc. related to a project; with Goodhue County assisting in the transference of money between Mn/DOT and Zumbrota through established processes.

Alternatives

- Approve and sign the attached resolution that the City of Zumbrota requires to submit their application for Transportation Alternatives Program dollars to replace Bridge 25583.
- Do nothing.

Recommendations

- It is the recommendation of staff that the County Board approve and sign the attached resolution that the City of Zumbrota requires to submit their application for Transportation Alternatives Program dollars to replace Bridge 25583.

Be it resolved that Goodhue County agrees to act as sponsoring agency for the project identified as Zumbrota's Trestle Bridge Replacement seeking MnDOT Transportation Alternative funds and has reviewed and approved the project as proposed.

The City of Zumbrota agrees to guarantee the local share of costs associated with this project and will be responsible for seeing this project through to its completion. The City will also assume full responsibility for the operation and maintenance of property and facilities related to the aforementioned transportation alternatives project.

Be it further resolved that Jess Greenwood, Goodhue County Engineer, is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this sponsoring agency.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by Goodhue County on this [date] day of [month], [year].

SIGNED:

(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)

WITNESSED:

(Signature)

(Title)

(Date)