

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 22-03

RESOLUTION APPROVING A 2022 RAISE DISCRETIONARY GRANT APPLICATION FOR THREE RIVERS REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY, EQUITY, AND MOBILITY PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity "RAISE" Transportation Grants Program provides dedicated, discretionary funding for transportation infrastructure projects, including trail projects, of local or regional significance; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation is soliciting applications for \$1.5 billion for the FY 2022 RAISE Transportation Grants Program as appropriated through the FY 2022 Appropriations Act for National Infrastructure Investments; and

WHEREAS, the RAISE Application requires a Resolution of Support for the application by the governing body of the applicant; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers Park District is a political subdivision, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota and authorized by statute to acquire, establish, operate and maintain trail systems; and,

WHEREAS, Three Rivers has constructed, maintains and operates a 165-mile Regional Trail Network that serves as the arterial active transportation network within Hennepin County, MN, and which serves over 5.8 million users each year; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers has a 2040 System Plan that identifies desired expansion of the system to 400 miles of regional trails; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers 2040 System Plan is supported by the 2040 Hennepin County Bicycle Transportation Plan, the Metropolitan Council (MPO) 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and is supported through individual Master Plans for each regional trail that have been approved by Three Rivers, the MPO, and the local cities in which the trails are planned; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers is seeking a RAISE grant of 80% of total eligible costs for the *Three Rivers' Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility Project* (Project); and

WHEREAS, project funds would create 7 miles of new regional trail, reconstruct 8 miles of existing end-of-life regional trail, improve 8 miles of newly designated regional trails, provide a grade-separated crossing of a busy county road, improve the safety of eight additional road crossings in the network, and provide additional wayfinding and other trail services; and

WHEREAS, the project will significantly increase sustainable environmental benefits and significantly reduce GHG emissions through these active transportation commuter improvements; and

WHEREAS, the project has a strong focus on improvements in areas with high concentrations of environmental justice and equity concerns, serving the densest concentrations of low-income households, BIPOC communities, and new immigrant communities, by providing a low-cost alternative active transportation system for those residents who may not be able to rely on vehicles for transportation; and

WHEREAS, the project will improve safety and mobility of the regional trail network by developing ADA-compliant road-separated trails, replacing an at-grade trail crossing of a busy high-speed county road with a safe underpass; and improve the safety and ADA compliance of eight additional road crossings in the network; and

WHEREAS, the project will improve community connectivity for residents, commuters, business patrons, and visitors by removing gaps and other barriers in the regional trail network; and

WHEREAS, the project will improve the quality of life for area residents by connecting neighborhoods in cities, connecting residents across cities, and connecting residents regionally, while promoting healthy lifestyle options for residents of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the project will address economic competitiveness and opportunity by providing a viable alternative access to jobs, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the project will be completed in a regional-level partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation; the MPO; Hennepin County; Metro Transit; Plymouth Metrolink; the Cities of Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Eden Prairie, Edina, Golden Valley, Minnetonka and Plymouth; the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; residents; and businesses in the area; and

WHEREAS, Three Rivers maintains an annual Asset Management Program, a 5-year Capital Improvement Program, and a long-range Asset Management Replacement Program; and

WHEREAS, if awarded the RAISE grant, the Three Rivers Board of Commissioners commits to providing the local match of the total project costs through its General Obligation Bonds or its other sources, while reserving the right to pursue funding partnerships at the local, regional and state levels to share in the funding of the local match and any additional costs as needed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Three Rivers Board of Commissioners supports and approves the FY 2022 RAISE Transportation Grant Application for the Three Rivers Regional Trail Network: Connecting Communities through Sustainability, Equity, and Mobility Project, and authorizes and directs the Three Rivers Superintendent to submit the application.

The Park District Board of Commissioners adopted this resolution on the 24th day of March, 2022, by a vote of 6 Ayes and 0 Nays.