

ROCORI TRAIL ACHIEVES ANOTHER MILESTONE

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The ROCORI Trail Construction Board (RTCB) is eagerly anticipating completion of construction of Phase 3 of the Rocori Trail projects in the coming months. The bulk of the major work items for Phase 3 are nearly finished. A second layer of asphalt will be completed next spring. Presently, fencing, signage, and grading work are being finalized before the winter season is upon us. The trail system will connect nearby cities of Richmond, Cold Spring, and Rockville along an abandoned BNSF railroad corridor. Due to funding constraints, the three-city connection project is being constructed in three different segments in three separate phases. Currently the 3-mile-long Phase 1 runs from just east of Richmond to Cold Spring and the 1.6-mile-long Phase 2 from Mill Street to the west end of 235th Street in Rockville.

The Phase 3 segment will close the gap connecting Phases 1 and 2 and the three Cities. Phase 3 begins in Rockville at the west end of 235th Street and extends west approximately 2.3 miles to Sauk River Road and 2nd Avenue NE in Cold Spring.

The estimated \$2.15 million cost to construct Phase 3 is being funded in large part by a \$1.2 million grant provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The Trust Fund is a permanent fund constitutionally established by the citizens of Minnesota to assist in the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. Currently 40% of the net Minnesota State Lottery proceeds are dedicated to growing the Trust Fund and ensuring future benefits for Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

Federal Transportation Alternatives and Federal Recreational Trail grants totaling \$943,000 were also secured for Phase 3 – the most difficult to construct and higher construction cost segment to date.

“We eagerly anticipate the completion of this phase of the project, which will finally connect our Rocori arena Cities. This has been an 18 year adventure with many obstacles and successes. We are proud to finally present this great addition to our communities when completed next spring”, says Kevin Mooney, former RTCB chair.

The RTCB has been meeting since 2004, planning and visioning for a connection between the three cities that make up the Rocori School District. Phase 1, constructed in 2012, was funded with \$2.1 million in federal and state grants. Phase 2, constructed in 2017, was funded in large part by a \$920,000 state grant.

The ROCORI Trail Construction Board aims to link Rockville, Cold Spring, and Richmond with a recreational trail. ROCORI Trail is a paved, separated pedestrian/bicycle trail, proposed to run from Richmond, through Cold Spring, to Rockville - 7.2 miles in length. A small portion, 0.4 miles, was built in downtown Rockville to coincide with a road improvement project in 2009. In 2012, Phase 1 (3.0 miles) was constructed from Richmond to Cold Spring. In 2017, Phase 2 (1.6 miles) was constructed from Mill Street to the west end of 235th Street in Rockville. A future segment (2.1 miles) extending northeast from downtown Rockville is also being evaluated. The ROCORI Trail will be of great regional value once completed and connected to other trails. More information can be found on the following web sites:

www.ci.richmond.mn.us

www.coldspring.govoffice.com

www.rockvillecity.org