



Record of Meeting

SRF No. 17185

Location: Glyndon Community Center
Client: Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments
Date: October 23, 2024
Subject: Heartland Trail Study in Clay County – Stakeholder Group Meetings #2

Stakeholder Group One (11:00 am – 12:15 pm)

Attendees: Dan Farnsworth and Chelsea Levorson Metro COG; Zakcq Lockrem, Mend Collaborative; Stewart Crosby, SRF; Carol Kurtyka, Moorhead Township; David Ebinger, Clay County; Wayne Lepper, Highland Grove Township; Jerry Gee, Oakport Township

Summary of Meeting:

- It was pointed out that the area along Junction Ave is wet with a lot of water crossings.
- One attendee mentioned that landowner(s) on the north side of Junction Ave won't be interested in a trail.
- Someone asked if there are any plans to replace the old trail tunnel under the BNSF tracks on Junction Ave. just west of the Becker Co. line. The study team will reach out to the Clay County Engineer to learn more about that tunnel.
- It was pointed out that 12th Ave S in Moorhead & Glyndon townships is designated as a county rd. (CR 74)

Stakeholder Group Two (1:00 pm – 2:15 pm)

Attendees: Dan Farnsworth and Chelsea Levorsen, Metro COG; Zakcq Lockrem, Mend Collaborative; Stewart Crosby, SRF; Greg Strommen, Clay County Trails Alliance (Snowmobile Club); Rick Wedrer, Hawley Township; Terry Steen, Flatlands Cycling Club; Matt Schlauderaff, Buffalo-Red Watershed

Summary of Meeting:

- Matt Schlauderaff pointed out that if a trail were to be put along Junction Ave, fill for the trail would involve soil and water (department) approval, which would be difficult. The south side of Junction Ave might be better for a trail than the north side as it might be less wet and have fewer difficult properties.
- Terry Steen noted that if the trail were to be located near a busy roadway, a buffer between the trail and roadway should be included. Terry also noted that he, as a bicyclist, enjoys going through/stopping at the towns along trails. The Heartland Trail should travel through towns where possible.

- From a snowmobile perspective, Greg had some concerns of the trail getting plowed in the winter in some areas, making it unusable for snowmobiles. As Moorhead and Dilworth expands, more portions of trail might end up plowed in the winter.
- There was some discussion about winter users. It was noted that fat bikes and snowmobiles shouldn't be on the same trail in the winter.
- The desirable treadway width for snowmobiles is 8.5 ft minimum. However, 12 ft or greater is preferred.
- When asked about designated snowmobile trails on private land, Greg noted that snowmobile clubs are required to have written agreements with landowners in order to use their land for their trail.
- (Discussion after the meeting) According to Matt Schlauderaff (BRRWD), there needs to be a 16.5 ft buffer (spoil area) between the drain and any development (such as a trail)

Stakeholder Group Three (3:00 pm – 4:15 pm)

Attendees: Dan Farnsworth and Chelsea Levorsen, Metro COG; Zakcq Lockrem, Mend Collaborative; Stewart Crosby, SRF; Deb White, City of Moorhead; Rob Kupec, Minnesota State Senator; Chelsie Wertman, Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation

Summary of Meeting:

- Senator Kupec noted that future MN bonding bills may not include earmarks for trails as has been the case in the past. However, there is trails funding included in the bonding bills, but this is for the entire state and most recently may have been in the tune of \$26 Million.