

AUTHORIZING A STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS AND INTERIM TRAIL USE / RAIL BANKING AGREEMENT FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE GREAT SAUK AND WALKING IRON TRAILS

The 2018-23 Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan (POSP) identifies a shared-use bicycle/pedestrian trail that connects the Great Sauk Trail in Sauk City to Mazomanie. Public input gathered throughout the POSP planning process showed strong support for development of bicycle/pedestrian trails throughout the county.

Dane and Sauk County are collaboratively leading project planning for a recreational bridge over the Wisconsin River. Dane County is concurrently working on planning and design for a rail to trail conversion from the proposed bridge heading south for approximately three miles towards Mazomanie. The trail is known as the Great Sauk Trail in Sauk County and will likely be known as the Walking Iron Trail on the Dane County side.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) rail banked the corridor extending between a point at approximately railroad milepost 7.96 on the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad Company's ("WSOR") Sauk Subdivision in Sauk County and ending at railroad milepost 4.72 of the WSOR Sauk Subdivision (aka the DNR's Lower Wisconsin State Riverway parking lot on the west side of Hwy 78) in Dane County.

Dane County desires to obtain use of the corridor in order to establish a recreational trail. WisDOT has agreed to permit Dane County the temporary use of the Property until such time as WisDOT, or WisDOT's successors in interest, is able to commence restoration and reconstruction of the Property for railroad purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby authorize a Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility to the Surface Transportation Board and an Interim Trail Use / Rail Banking Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the construction of a public recreational trail; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Executive is hereby authorized and directed to sign the documents on behalf of Dane County.