

Mt. Iron Trails Plan –Scope of Work

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission



Background & Purpose

The City of Mt. Iron has expressed an interest in developing a trail system in the City that would connect important local destinations. Currently there are few bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the City and TH 169 separates the city creating an obstacle for non-motorized uses. Bicyclists and pedestrians now must use the shoulders of the local highways to get around. This trail system would provide safer routes for bicyclists and pedestrians and ensure better safety for automobiles and nontraditional transportation users alike.

Recommendations could include:

- ❑ Sidewalk improvements
- ❑ Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
- ❑ On-street facilities
- ❑ Traffic diversion improvements
- ❑ Off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- ❑ Traffic calming measures for off-system roads

Trails have many valuable benefits to consider, both for local communities and for individual users. They strengthen communities, contribute to local economies, and build local pride. The objective of the Mt. Iron Trails Plan will be to provide the City with ideas about how to best proceed with trail development and will also suggest improvements needed to enhance the environment for children walking or bicycling to school.



Participants

ARDC will work with a group of local officials to complete the plan. Input from the following people and agencies will be valuable.

- Mt. Iron residents/ students/ government officials
- Police Department
- St. Louis County
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Mt. Iron Schools

Mt. Iron Trails Plan –Scope of Work

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

Planning Process

The steps for the Mt. Iron Trails planning process are as follows:

Step 1

ARDC will work with project participants to form project goals. The goals should reflect the desires of the community.

Step 2

ARDC will inventory the current transportation network in and around the City of Mt. Iron. ARDC will use available road information on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), input from the County Engineers, and visual surveys to identify existing conditions. ARDC will also identify the possible bicycle/pedestrian traffic generators in the community. These facilities include parks, retail areas, employment centers, and schools. This information will be used to identify opportunities and barriers that currently exist and identify where walking and bicycling facilities are needed or need improvement.



Step 3

ARDC staff will recommend improvements that are the best fit for the area. Recommendations may include new trail or sidewalk construction, intersection improvements, signage, other safety improvements, and neighborhood/school connections. ARDC will also work to develop cost estimates for the proposed projects.

Step 4

This stage of the planning process will consist of implementation of the plan. Implementation will state potential funding sources, responsible entities, and projected timeframes for completion.

Public Participation

The planning process will offer an opportunity for citizens to provide input by holding a comment period during *Step 2*. During this phase the public can e-mail or call project staff with their comments. ARDC will also maintain an up-to-date web page at www.arrowheadplanning.org that will monitor project progress and contain contact information. A draft document will be made available for public comment near the end of the process.

Mt. Iron Trails Plan –Scope of Work

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

Timeline

The planning process is designed to be completed within six months. The beginning date depends on the availability of funds.

Plan Budget and Funding Sources

The cost of this planning process is \$8,000. The City of Mountain Iron is requesting \$6,400 from the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) In-kind Transportation Planning Grant Program. \$1,600 will be provided as a local match.