

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on February 4, 2025

## M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

**Project Title:** Minnesota State Trails Development

**Project Manager:** Kent Skaar

**Affiliation:** MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

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**Website:** [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks\\_trails/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails/index.html)

**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i

**Appropriation Amount:** \$994,000

**Amount Spent:** \$738,488

**Amount Remaining:** \$255,512

### Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This Project completed the rehabilitation or replacement of 3 Bridges on the Taconite, Great River Ridge and CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trails and the completion of the engineering required for the replacement of a 2nd CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail bridge. Formal inspections had previously recommended immediate repair or replacement.

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project provided the opportunity for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) to continue to fulfill its legislative responsibility to maintain and expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of the authorized State Trail System. A total of four existing State Trail bridges, located on three separate State Trails, including the Taconite, Great River Ridge and CJ. Ramstad/Northshore were selected for repair or replacement under this project. Each of the bridges identified had been previously recommended for immediate rehabilitation or replacement due to overall structural condition following formal inspection. The existing bridges included: a former railroad structure the carries the Great River Ridge State Trail over the Whitewater River near the community of Elgin, Wabasha County; a 30-year-old, steel recreational trail truss

bridge that carried the Taconite State Trail over the Pike River, St. Louis County; and two primitive timber structures constructed by the MNDNR along the CJ. Ramstad/Northshore State Trail in Lake County. Given condition and associated loading restrictions, these bridges were no longer able to support current, required maintenance equipment. The Project resulted in the installation of a new 140-foot-long steel truss, recreational trail bridge on the Taconite State Trail bridge, the replacement of one of the two CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail bridges with a is a single span, 30-foot-long laminated timber structure. Improvements to the Great River Ridge State Trail Bridge were limited to structural repair of the timber pile substructure. Unfortunately, given the scheduling limitations associated with project permit requirements, work completed under this project on the final bridge was limited to the completion of required engineering plans and specifications. The support of the LCCMR for each of the referenced projects, has assured decades of safe public recreational use of these three of Minnesota State Trails.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

The successful completion of this LCCMR supported project has provided for the Public's continued, safe use of the Taconite, Great River Ridge and CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trails and the MNDNR's ability to effectively maintain these facilities for all designated uses. The LCCMR project support was publicly acknowledged by MNDNR staff at phases of project development, including discussions with local trail groups and advocates, the inclusion of the Trust Fund Logo predominantly on construction plans. Upon completion, a plaque/sign that clearly displays the Trust Fund Logo will be installed at the both ends of each bridges.



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** February 10, 2025

**ID Number:** 2020-045

**Staff Lead:** Michael Varien

**Project Title:** Minnesota State Trails Development

**Project Budget:** \$994,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Kent Skaar

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### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** February 4, 2025

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** February 4, 2025

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2024

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i

**Appropriation Language:** \$994,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to expand high-priority recreational opportunities on Minnesota's state trails by rehabilitating, improving, and enhancing existing state trails. The high-priority trail bridges to be rehabilitated or replaced under this appropriation include, but are not limited to, those on the Taconite, Great River Ridge, and C. J. Ramstad/Northshore State Trails.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2024

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the rehabilitation or replacement of existing state trail bridges.

**Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

This project fulfills legislative direction to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development of new trail segments; and the rehabilitation and enhancement of existing State Trails. Each of the individual state trail projects identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource (MN DNR), Parks and Trails Division represent opportunities to enhance recreational opportunities and improve user safety by completing the repair and/or replacement of 4 existing trail bridges located on three separate State Trails. Each specific project is a MNDNR a priority given current condition as determined by formal inspections and user comments. Each of the individual state trail bridges to be subject to replacement have recently received formal inspection condition rating of Fair to Poor, and have been recommended for replacement in 2 years. One of the identified bridges is a former railroad structure. The remaining three bridges include two primitive timber structures and the third is a timber and steel truss bridge, all developed by the MNDNR and have been in service for between 20 and 30 years. As proposed, these improvements will be completed as 4 separate projects. One of the projects will provide matching funds for an existing Federal Recreational Trail Grant.

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

This proposal will provide for the replacement of up to four existing state trail bridges that have been determined by formal inspection to require replacement. The proposed bridge replacements are to be completed as four separate projects, on three separate state trail corridors, including the Taconite State Trail, the Great River Ridge State Trail, and the C.J. Ramstad/Northshore State Trail. As proposed two of the four bridges identified are to be replaced with 140 foot long, modern steel truss structures. The two remaining bridges are small, timber structures developed by MNDNR staff and have now exceeded their design life, are to be replaced with large three sided culverts. .

**What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?**

The individual projects identified, once complete, will permit the continued, safe use of three of the MNDNR administered state trails, including the Taconite, Great River Ridge and CJ Ramstad/Northshore state trails. While none of the current bridges are closed to use, two of the bridges, located on the Taconite State Trail and Great River Ridge State Trail have posted load limits of 5000 lbs. and 6000 lbs. respectively which precludes any maintenance equipment, including snowmobile groomers from crossing the bridge. Annual inspections have been implemented until replacements are complete or inspection results require the bridge to be closed.

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Statewide

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Statewide

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: State Trail Bridge Renewal or Replacement

**Activity Budget:** \$994,000

**Activity Description:**

This project includes the renewal or replacement of (4) four existing state trail bridges, all of which have a Conditional Index Rating of Fair to Poor and are recommended for complete replacement within 2 years. The bridges to be subject to renewal or replacement are located on the following State Trails and are listed in the order of priority: (1) Taconite State Trail-Koochiching Co.-This bridge carries the State Trail over the Pike River; (2) Great River Ridge State Trail-Wabasha Co.-This bridge that carries the State Trail over the North Branch of the Whitewater River near Elgin; (3) CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail-Lake Co.: This bridge carries the natural surfaced, state trail over Little 39 Creek, near Silver Bay; (4) CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail-Lake Co.- This bridge carries the State Trail over the East Branch Manitou River just outside of the boundary of George H. Crosby-Manitou State Park.. Each of the proposed replacement bridges or culverts will be a new steel structures on concrete footings with a conservative useful life of 50 years.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Completion of Required Engineering	December 31, 2022
Construction Contracts Awarded	April 30, 2023
Project Construction Complete	June 30, 2024
Project Closeout - Final Reporting	June 30, 2024

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Wabasha County	Regional Rail Authority	Great River Ridge State Trail - Current State Trail Segment administered by MnDNR Parks and Trails Division under Agreement with Wabasha Co. County provides Trail rights of way and design review assistance.	No

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

For each of the individual proposed projects, all Minnesota Department of Natural Resources public notifications regarding the identified projects will reference the support of the LCCMR. All engineering plans and specifications include specific reference to the LCCMR through the inclusion of the Trust Fund Logo placed on the Title Sheet. Each Bridge when completed will also have a plaque affixed at each end that clearly displays the Trust Fund Logo.

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

Each of the identified projects are all existing components of the Outdoor Recreation System and will be implemented through the MNDNR Parks and Trails Division staff. All project engineering, design, contract administration and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MNDNR Operation Services Division. The MNDNR will operate, maintain and protect each of the facilities when complete. The implementation of these projects will also significantly reduce the Parks and Trails Division's annual operational costs for the defined trail segments and bridges from 10 to 25 years.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota State Trails Acquisition, Development and Enhancement	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09d	\$1,038,000
Minnesota State Trail Development	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j	\$2,500,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09d	\$5,000,000

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>Personnel</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>										
MNDNR Operation Services Division	Internal services or fees (uncommon)	All proposed project engineering, design, contract administration and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MNDNR Division of Operation Services / Construction and Design.				2		\$109,000	\$88,409	\$20,591
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$109,000</b>	<b>\$88,409</b>	<b>\$20,591</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>										
		Taconite State Trail - Pike River Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient trail bridge	X				\$257,150	\$250,000	\$7,150
		Great River Ridge State trail - No. Branch Whitewater River Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient trail bridge	X				\$358,780	\$291,314	\$67,466
		CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail-Little 39 Creek Bridge	Replacement of existing deficient trail bridge	X				\$78,056	-	\$78,056
		CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail - E. Branch Manitou River Bridge	Replacement of deficient trail bridge	X				\$178,056	\$100,000	\$78,056
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$872,042</b>	<b>\$641,314</b>	<b>\$230,728</b>
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-

<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>										
		MNDNR Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$0), Safety Support (~\$0), Financial Support (~\$10,433), Communication Support (~\$1,388), IT Support (~\$0), and Planning Support (~\$1,138) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.					\$12,958	\$8,765	\$4,193
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$12,958</b>	<b>\$8,765</b>	<b>\$4,193</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$994,000</b>	<b>\$738,488</b>	<b>\$255,512</b>



## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Taconite State Trail - Pike River Bridge	No ineligible expenses anticipated <b>Additional Explanation :</b> This bridge is a fixed structure located on the state owned and administered State Trail Corridor and will be maintained by the MnDNR Trail Operations staff who currently administer, operate and maintain the respective state trails.
Capital Expenditures		Great River Ridge State trail - No. Branch Whitewater River Bridge	No ineligible expenses anticipated <b>Additional Explanation :</b> This bridge is a fixed structure located on the state owned and administered State Trail Corridor and will be maintained by the MnDNR Trail Operations staff who currently administer, operate and maintain the respective state trails.
Capital Expenditures		CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail- Little 39 Creek Bridge	No ineligible expenses anticipated <b>Additional Explanation :</b> The proposed large steel culvert is a fixed structure located on the state owned and administered State Trail Corridor and will be maintained by the MnDNR Trail Operations staff who currently administer, operate and maintain the respective state trails.
Capital Expenditures		CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail - E. Branch Manitou River Bridge	No ineligible expenses anticipated <b>Additional Explanation :</b> The proposed large steel culvert is a fixed structure located on the state owned and administered State Trail Corridor and will be maintained by the MnDNR Trail Operations staff who currently administer, operate and maintain the respective state trails.

## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>State</b>						
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	For replacement of the Taconite State Trail Bridge over the Pike River (Construction Only)	Secured	\$26,000	\$26,000	-
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	For replacement of the Taconite State Trail Bridge over the Pike River (Construction Only)	Secured	\$280,200	\$280,200	-
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	For replacement of the CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail Bridge over the East Branch Manitou River (Construction Only) L21	Secured	\$20,550	\$20,550	-
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	For replacement of the CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail Bridge over the East Branch Manitou River (Construction Only) L23	Secured	\$105,060	\$105,060	-
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$431,810</b>	<b>\$431,810</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Non-State</b>						
Cash	Federal Recreation Trail Grant	For the replacement of the Taconite State Trail Bridge over the Pike River.	Secured	\$150,000	-	\$150,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$581,810</b>	<b>\$431,810</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [80628110-9e0.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Four maps identifying the location of each of the four bridges to be replaced under this project; Map 1/Page 1: Location of the Taconite State Trail bridge over the Pike River southwest of Tower; Map 2/Page 2: Location of the Great River Ridge State Trail bridge over the North Branch of the Whitewater River; Map 3/Page 3: Location of CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail bridge over Little 39 Creek; and Map 4/Page 4: Location of the CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail bridge over the East Branch...

### Supplemental Attachments

#### *Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	<a href="#">5984346b-226.pdf</a>
LCCMR Bridge Sign Installation Guide 2024	<a href="#">e6a90b19-4ed.pdf</a>
LCCMR Trailhead Sign Installation Guide 2024	<a href="#">dd4391a8-5b5.pdf</a>
CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail East Branch Manitou River Replacement Bridge	<a href="#">ee0bd011-d8c.docx</a>
Great River Ridge State Trail - North Branch Whitewater River Bridge Repair	<a href="#">fb209869-f04.jpe</a>
Taconite State Trail - Pike River Replacement Bridge	<a href="#">a4f15626-800.jpe</a>

### Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

#### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

The 2020 Work Plan as submitted has been revised to conform to the recommendations of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The principal revisions are a reduction to the total number of projects proposed. To address the principal State Trail project priorities, the revised project is limited to the replacement of a total of four existing deficient State Trail Bridges. The projects removed from consideration have been retained as contingency projects should any of the current projects be subject to unanticipated delays. Background check certification form added.

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

Yes

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

N/A

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

## Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</li> <li>• Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed</li> </ul>	<p>It is requested that the individual project capital construction budgets be amended to reflect project revisions and higher than estimated realized construction costs.</p> <p>Taconite ST / Pike River Bridge Capital Budget increased by \$50000; Great River Ridge ST / Whitewater River Bridge Capital Budget decreased by \$50000; CJ Ramstad / Northshore ST / Little 39 Creek Bridge Capital Budget decreased by \$50000; CJ Ramstad / Northshore ST / East Branch Manitou River Bridge Capital Budget increased by \$50000.</p>	March 25, 2024	Yes	June 20, 2024

# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update August 14, 2024

**Date Submitted:** December 1, 2024

**Date Approved:** January 6, 2025

### Overall Update

On June 30, 2024, this project, consisting of the planned rehabilitation or replacement of four separate Minnesota State Trail Bridges, located on the Taconite, Great River Ridge and the CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trails was considered complete. The Taconite State Trail / Pike River Bridge replacement included the removal of the existing trail bridge and the installation of a new 140-foot, steel truss bridge. The bridge removed, was transferred to St. Louis County for use on an ATV trail. The Great River Ridge State Trail bridge rehabilitation, limited to repair and replacement of timber structural members of this former railroad bridge, was also complete by June 2024. Based upon engineering recommendations, the bridge deck replacement has been deferred until conditions warrant. The remaining projects located on the CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail were to include the replacement of existing bridges over the East Branch-Manitou River and Little 39 Creek. The replacement East Branch Manitou River bridge, installed in 2023 is a 30-foot-long laminated timber structure. While, due to scheduling and permitting conflicts, the Little 39 Creek Bridge replacement was not complete by June 2024, the MnDNR has committed to complete the project in 2025, utilizing the LCCMR supported plans and specifications.

### Activity 1

By June 30, 2024, all proposed State Trail bridge projects were considered complete. These projects, however, included the rehabilitation or replacement of only three of the four State Trail Bridges originally identified. The completed projects include the Taconite State Trail / Pike River Bridge replacement; the CJ Ramstad / Northshore State Trail / East Branch-Manitou River Bridge replacement; and the structural rehabilitation of the Great River Ridge State Trail / North Branch Whitewater River Bridge. The new Taconite State Trail bridge is a 140-foot-long steel truss, recreational trail bridge. The new CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail bridge is a 30-foot-long laminated timber structure that is rated for the required 15-ton load limit. While limited to structural rehabilitation, improvements to the Great River Ridge State Trail Bridge included the repair or replacement of all timber pile supports. These improvements resulted in the load limit restriction being lifted and the bridge again rated to accommodate a 15-ton load limit. Unfortunately, challenges scheduling construction and required permitting limitations prevented the completion of the final replacement of the CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail Bridge over Little 39 Creek. The MnDNR has committed to the completion the project and the intended implementation of the LCCMR supported plans.

### Dissemination

DNR Division of Parks and Trails staff have credited the LCCMR in all discussions with local trail groups and advocates regarding the individual projects. For these projects, the Wabasha County Rail Authority and the associated Grant IN Aid Trail clubs were informed directly of the LCCMR funding that has been provided and the specific projects for which it is to be utilized. DNR Design and Construction staff were informed that all engineering plans and specifications include specific reference to the LCCMR through the inclusion of the Trust Fund Logo placed on the Title Sheet if developed. Division of Parks and Trails staff will install a plaque/sign that clearly displays the Trust Fund Logo to each bridge in 2025 according to guidance for the installation of these signs that has been developed by the Division of Parks and Trails, a copy of which has been attached to this report.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** March 25, 2024

**Date Approved:** June 20, 2024

### Overall Update

By April 1, 2024, the Taconite State Trail / Pike River Bridge replacement was nearing completion. Following a manufacturing delay in 2022 that required a one-year postponement, the replacement trail bridge was installed on 11 March 2024. Construction for the Pike River bridge replacement began in January 2024 and is scheduled for completion in April 2024. The structural rehabilitation of the Great River Ridge State Trail Bridge began in September 2022 and will be complete in June 2024. MNDNR Engineers determined during the course of structural rehabilitation that the condition of the Great River Ridge State Trail Bridge timber deck was better expected, and complete replacement was no longer necessary. While the plans for the CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail Bridges were both in preparation in early 2023, only the replacement of the East Branch Manitou Bridge was able to be completed in compliance with the 2023 exclusion period for working within Lake Superior tributaries. Although the replacement of the CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail Bridge over Little 39 Creek will not be complete by 30 June 2024, LCCMR assistance has provided for the completion of the required replacement plans and permitting. The MnDNR has committed to the projects completion.

### Activity 1

By April 2024, all State Trail bridge projects had been completed or advanced toward completion. The final plans for the replacement of the Taconite State Trail, Pike River Bridge were complete, and a construction contract awarded in May 2023, construction was initiated in January 2024 with April 2024 completion anticipated. After revision to rehabilitation rather than replacement in 2022, a construction contract for the structural rehabilitation of the Great River Ridge State Trail (GRRST) Bridge was awarded in August 2022 and structural rehabilitation of this former railroad structure was completed in June 2023. Following a supplementary inspection completed during construction, it was determined that the replacement of the timber bridge deck is not necessary. The GRRST project is therefore considered complete. Of the two CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trail (NSST) bridge projects, the replacement of the East Branch Manitou River bridge with a laminated timber bridge was considered substantially complete in December 2023. Unfortunately, the replacement of the NSST Little 39 Creek Bridge will not be complete by 30 June 2024 due to required exclusion periods for working in Lake Superior tributary streams. The MnDNR has committed to the completion of this replacement bridge in 2024/2025 as funding permits.

### Dissemination

DNR Parks and Trails staff continue to credit the LCCMR in all discussions with local trail groups and advocates regarding the individual trail projects. As previously noted all construction plans and specifications will include the ENRTF logo prior to advertisement and bidding. Each individual bridge when complete will also have a plaque installed by the Division of Parks and Trails staff that clearly displays the Trust Fund Logo.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** March 25, 2024

**Date Approved:** June 20, 2024

**Overall Update**

Not Submitted

**Activity 1**

Not Submitted

**Dissemination**

Not Submitted



# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** March 25, 2024

**Date Approved:** June 20, 2024

**Overall Update**

Not Submitted

**Activity 1**

Not Submitted

**Dissemination**

Not Submitted

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** January 2, 2023

**Date Approved:** January 30, 2023

### Overall Update

By October 1, 2022 construction on the Great River Ridge State Trail / Whitewater River Bridge (GRR Bridge) had been initiated, preliminary plans and specifications had been prepared for the replacement of the Taconite State Trail / Pike River Bridge and the all field engineering had been completed for the Little 39 Creek and East Branch Manitou River bridges on CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail. Following the change in GRR Bridge project scope from replacement to rehabilitation, by August 2022 a contract for the structural repairs had been awarded. Repair construction was initiated in September and is scheduled to be complete on December 1, 2022. Replacement of the timber bridge deck / railing is proposed to be completed in 2023. Due to current extended delivery times for steel trail bridges, the installation of the new Taconite State Trail Bridge has been delayed from the winter of 2022/2023 to winter 2023/2024. It is anticipated that a construction contract for the replacement of the Pike River Bridge will be awarded in May 2023 and installations complete by December 1, 2023. Plans and specifications for the 2 CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail bridges while delayed, are expected to be completed in early 2023.

### Activity 1

By October 1, 2022 all 4 state trail bridge rehabilitation or replacement projects had begun to advance. The preliminary plans and specifications for the replacement of the Taconite State Trail, Pike River Bridge were completed during September 2022. The required cultural and natural resource field assessments, including wetland delineations were also completed during this time. Given the remote, wet nature of the bridge installation access route, construction is required to be completed during the winter in an effort to limit wetland impacts. Unfortunately production delays currently associated with new steel trail truss bridges, the installation of this bridge has been scheduled for winter 2023/2024. Following the Great River Ridge Bridge project revision to rehabilitation rather than replacement, a contract was awarded in August 2022 for the structural rehabilitation of this timber, former railroad structure. Completion of Phase I, structural rehabilitation, is presently scheduled for December 2022. The replacement of the existing timber bridge deck and safety railings is anticipated to be completed during 2023. While the plans and specifications for the 2 CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail bridges have been delayed from what had been anticipated, field engineering, resource assessments and wetland delineations had been completed by September

### Dissemination

DNR Parks and Trails staff continue to credit the LCCMR in all discussions with local trail groups and advocates regarding the individual trail projects. As previously noted all formal construction plans and specifications will include the ENRTF logo prior to advertisement and bidding. Each individual bridge when complete will also have a plaque installed by the Division of Parks and Trails staff that clearly displays the Trust Fund Logo.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** July 7, 2022

**Date Approved:** January 30, 2023

### Overall Update

This Project identified four existing State Trail Bridges for renewal or replacement. Once each of the individual bridge projects are complete, the public will be assured of continued, safe recreational trail crossings of the four rivers or streams that the three state trails, including the Taconite, Great River Ridge and CJ Ramstad/Northshore State Trails traverse. While formal inspections have placed load limits on two of the bridges due to condition that currently prohibits all maintenance equipment from accessing or crossing the structures, each of the bridges currently remain open to public recreational use. In accordance with the proposed activity, formal engineering design and resource assessments have been initiated for all four of the identified bridges. While all four of the State Trail bridges identified were originally proposed for complete replacement, following a reassessment of current cost conditions and available options, one of these structures, located on the Great River Ridge State Trail has been revised to the complete rehabilitation of the existing former railroad structure. This recommended change will provide additional assurance of successful project completion. It is currently anticipated that all projects will be complete and available for continued public use by the proposed completion date.

### Activity 1

This project as proposed includes the renewal or replacement of four existing state trail bridges, all of which have been determined to be in Fair to Poor and were previously recommended for replacement. The individual State Trail bridge projects are: (1) Taconite State Trail / Pike River Bridge, St. Louis County; (2) Great River Ridge State Trail / North Branch Whitewater River Bridge, Wabasha County; (3) CJ Ramstad-North Shore State Trail / Little 39 Creek Bridge, Lake County; and (4) CJ Ramstad-North Shore State Trail / East Branch Manitou River Bridge, Lake County. Engineering and resource assessments have been initiated for all four projects. Construction of the replacement Taconite State Trail / Pike River is tentatively to begin in Late 2022. The Great River Ridge State Trail Project is also anticipated to begin construction in 2022, although under a revised approach. Due to increasing costs and significant production delays specifically associated with long steel recreational bridges, the Great River Ridge State Trail Bridge project has been revised to the rehabilitation of the existing timber, former railroad bridge. The first phase of the rehabilitation is anticipated to be complete in Late 2022 with the second phase tentatively scheduled for 2023.

### Dissemination

For each of the individual proposed projects, the Divisions of Parks and Trails Division notified each of our local project supporters and user groups of the support received from the LCCMR and the intention to proceed with the identified improvements and the associated short term trail closures that will accompany construction. The DNR's engineering and design staff were also notified that LCCMR would be the primary funding source for each of the identified projects and that all conceptual, preliminary and final plans should reflect that participation with the inclusion of the appropriate ENRTF logo on the each plan cover sheet.