

GITCHI-GAMI STATE TRAIL

SF4375 | HF4339

PHOTO BY ADAM MALMANGER, TWO HARBORS

With over 125,000 visits each summer, the Gitchi-Gami State Trail is a widely used amenity on the North Shore. Funding these projects will ensure that recent momentum on trail advancement continues to connect people to shared places in Minnesota's pre-eminent tourism destination. This ADA accessible trail provides a safe place for people to walk, bike, and roll. The trail corridor makes up a significant portion of USBike Route 41/The North Star Route, and is a priority corridor for connecting people to North Shore communities via non-motorized transportation modes.

Lutsen: Trail Construction (Arrowhead Electric to Steam Engine Road)

\$700,000

This funding will match a \$600,000 Federal Transportation Alternatives grant, extending the trail into the town center of Lutsen. This is a vital trail segment that improves safety and connects residents and visitors to important destinations. This 1/3 mile trail segment also includes an 80ft span bridge over an unnamed creek. The Hwy 61 shoulders in this area are only 18 inches wide. Construction on this trail segment is anticipated to begin in FY2027.

Two Harbors Area: Trail & Bridge Construction/Wayside Updates (Superior Shores Rd to Flood Bay)

\$3.5M

This trail segment connects to the recently constructed Two Harbors to Superior Shores Road segment of trail and will provide trail users access to a beautiful state amenity at Flood Bay State Wayside. This wayside will serve as the southern trailhead for the Gitchi-Gami. This 0.3 mile segment of trail includes a 1000ft bridge over navigating a coastal wetland. The bridge will protect the wetland and allow for a truly unique recreational experience. The project also includes updates to amenities at Flood Bay State Wayside.

Silver Creek Township: Pre-Design/Engineering (Flood Bay State Wayside to Stewart River)

\$300,000

This funding will support preliminary design and engineering for the next phase of trail between Flood Bay State Wayside and the Stewart River Bridge. In 2023, MnDOT accommodated the trail over the historic bridge crossing the Stewart River. Preliminary design for this segment will assist the MnDNR and GGTA in making routing decisions, identifying acquisition needs, and pursuing grant funding for this next segment of trail that will also connect to the Stewart River State Wayside.

Bill Authors: Sen. Grant Hauschild (03) & Rep. Roger Skraba (03A)
Co-Author: Sen. Jennifer McEwen (08)

Project Supporters:

Cook County, Lake County, Cook County Chamber, Lutsen Twp, Silver Creek Twp, Lake County Chamber, Cook County Active Living Steering Committee, Gitchi-Gami Trail Association, Parks & Trails Council of MN, Bicycle Alliance of MN, and many local businesses!

For questions, please contact :

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Total Bonding Request:

\$4.5 Million

