

Greenway Technical Committee

June 11, 2002

In attendance: Helen Cozzetto (MN DNR), Melanie Parvey-Biby (GF Greenway), Traie Dockter (DLG), Steven Renslow (Red River Snowmobile Club), Ryan Brooks (MPO), Lane Magnuson (MPO), Stephen Mullally (GF Park District), Dale Skyberg (EGF Parks), Ann Sande (Friends of the Greenway), Marty Egeland (ND Game and Fish), Ben Ehreth (GF Greenway)

I. Introduction-Steve Mullally Grand Forks Park District

Review and approval of last month's minutes.

II. Mapping Update-Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of Grand Forks

Melanie-Handed out copies of examples of maps from River Keepers (Canoeing Route of Fargo/Moorhead area) and from the St. Paul, MN downtown trail system. Used many of the same symbols from the two maps and incorporated them into the Greenway map. Map included parks, which were highlighted with symbols indicating facilities. Once legend is put together and East Grand Forks highlights their areas then we will merge the two maps. Question about which lines represent what paths on the map? Orange lines indicate connections, which are uncertain at this point because we are beginning the design.

Would like to highlight specific areas and when they will be completed, may be able to accomplish this by color-coding. It will give the community a sense of what areas are complete and when areas will be completed. Helen spoke with MN DNR graphics personnel and they stated once maps are merged they can translate the information to work with their signs. Don't feel streets are necessary to have on map. What can be done to assist them (MN DNR)? DNR will need merged file and need to know what the cities want to put on both sides (just Corps stuff or whatever else). Cities will work toward a complete legend and merged files. Are we talking about adding everything that's going to be in the Greenway? Can be simplified by just having symbols. Can MPO merge files? Don't think third party needs to be involved. The draft is to review today, to make sure we were going the right direction with the mapping. Don't feel we need streets all the streets shown on the maps, maybe just major roads such as Belmont. Will Greenway maps be uniform with same symbols? MN DNR symbols are pretty standard throughout the country. The ND Parks and Recreation use same symbols.

Purpose of maps to be all-inclusive have everything that's proposed? Not sure of location on various features proposed for the area. We wanted a map showing everything we're more certain of, this is not to say we couldn't have a working document map indicating proposed features, as well. Think we need both. May be confusing to people to include everything on one map once it is proposed, public will think it is set in stone.

Will there be the same kiosks on both sides? DNR visited with Corps last week and my understanding is that there are not many kiosks on East Grand Forks side. Main kiosks on Grand Forks side. Thought there was suppose to be kiosks on East Grand Forks side. The City of Grand Forks will have two kiosks north and south of Demers on wet side (Grand Forks side of the downtown). Dale thought that's where EGF were as well. John Fisher, USACE, didn't think so. City of Grand Forks feels that whatever maps we develop think they can be used all over not just

in kiosks. Could that layer be put on a CAD system like we're working with? Once you have finished product MPO will take it and get it to work with the software we have. This map (Grand Forks Greenway draft map) is in CAD. MN DNR would like it translated to ArcView. If you have it in CAD, ArcView can read it. DNR prefers it in Auto CAD.

For now just include what's funded and part of the project and then add to it, for example add boat ramps later. Some river accesses may be worked out in East Grand Forks but not Grand Forks. DNR suggested that if we could utilize MN DNR graphics department then same map can be used for both cities. Maybe there's a way we could color code proposed features (for instance boat ramps). Some features will overlap like trails will be snowmobile trails and may be hiking trails. Maybe need more than one symbol. MPO mentioned that the group needs to be careful not to make the maps too busy. Maybe need to do separate brochures for separate interests (x-country skiing for example). Would separate phases be represented? The City of Grand Forks thinks people need to know when each portion of the trail will be complete. If we put too many things on a map people will assume they will happen.

Other issue is bridge location. Corps stated problems with exact location based on soil stability. Think they will dictate location to us. Is an area identified? Yes, just determining exact locations. Once the maps are merged need to indicate crossings. So two pedestrian bridges in project? According to Corps three with the third being on Red Lake. Bridge on Red Lake will enhance entire Greenway. If no bridge the loop will be disconnected. Other option would be to go over Louis Murray Bridge.

What about cost for the mapping project? DNR suggested that if the legwork is done by cities we could finish the product. I don't know what it will cost the cities. City of Grand Forks is working within our budget. DNR likes River Keepers' map because it's simple. City of Grand Forks envisioned finished product not having the proposed amenities. Add proposed amenities to a working document that we can continue to change.

How is MPO involved? They haven't been to date. Wasn't MPO going to fly the Greenway for aerial photos? Best thing to do with that is have it go through both cities to make a request to us to get it into a work program put together in September. Might want to put on next agenda to work through both City Councils to make that request to us. Talked about that last meeting. Dale thought we were in the stage of contacting the councils to put it on their agendas. This group (Greenway Tech Committee) asks cities to make the request. MPO suggested having the group do it. Helen made motion to request aerial photography of the Greenway area in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. City of Grand Forks representative asked why is aerial photography necessary right now? Do we think area will change that much after this year? Not sure what else is getting done? The reason for the fly-over in my understanding was so both sides could be uniform. Last fly-over the MPO did of the Cities was in 1998. That's the last aerial photography of East Grand Forks. Last time Grand Forks did theirs was 2000. This would keep both cities uniform. MPO asked if we are going to use aerial photography for mapping? EGF suggested that the part we were going to use for mapping is the start of a canoe path along the river to the Red Lake. Think it's a good resource to have and keep updated. Think we could do it now and in 2006 when levees should be complete. Then doing it every 3 to 5 years. Melanie asked if we need aerial photography to do mapping. Just don't want to make a request to substantiate obtaining new

aerial photography. Looking at mapping. Don't know what they need but as far as where the levee runs and what features are going in, we're not going to obtain from aerial photography. MPO mentioned that as soon as the fly-over happens and by the time we get it to use for mapping it will be out of date, especially in the middle of the project. How often does MPO request aerial fly-overs? First one was in 1998. City of Grand Forks did it in 2000. Ann-What was purpose of 2000 fly-over? MPO thought part was funded by Corp money. Grand Forks used it to implement into their GIS system. What is cost? Depends on elevation. Minutes from last meeting indicate that this matter was discussed last time. Dale suggested taking these minutes to our councils. Who pays for aerial photos? It would come out of MPO budget. Then they (MPO) need the letter of support so they could do it. Those letters have to come from the cities. Dale agrees but the cities don't even know we're requesting this. Grand Forks would support it but not absolutely sure why we need it. Do we need it for project as a whole? Need it for the project. Just to see timeline of how project develops really helps. What's driving this? Why is letter of support necessary? Would MPO just do it anyway? Would help MPO out when requesting it. Doesn't necessarily need to be done for mapping but could be used for other things like to give progress on the project. Other people are going to use the photos. Chance it would be flown anyway. Park District agrees that it makes sense to support it. Helen made motion for the group to support the fly-over. Dale and Melanie will have to bring it to councils. Dale-I'll just bring last meetings minutes to administration and do it. How do we justify why we support this? One point is that MPO hasn't done it since 1998 although Grand Forks did it in 2000. MPO mentioned that East Grand Forks (aerial photos) are bad for mapping and if you need one uniform coverage, it would be helpful. Usually KBM will fly over East Grand Forks anyway to see if East Grand Forks will pay for them. Maybe this would be useful but East Grand Forks needs them more than Grand Forks. Don't know. Do we want to say lets do this every three years during the construction? That is a good idea. Traie mentioned that the DLG might be pursuing a land use study for downtown. If it's done we will need a good understanding of what exists on both sides of the downtown. Couldn't commit to anything today but would be another reason for doing the fly-over. Melanie doesn't have a problem making the request but if we are the only group making the request not sure what type of response we'll get back. Ryan suggested talking to Earl. Maybe there's been other requests. Traie will mention to her executive council that this may be an option and that they may be able to support it. Ryan mentioned that many departments would use it but probably would not make a request for it. When would you do it? Don't know when we're looking at doing it.

Does Game and Fish have examples (of maps) you could bring. Not that good, what they have is similar to a County Platte Atlas.

There is a web site for interpretive signage panniergraphics.com (leading construction company for building the fiberglass panels). DNR uses them pretty consistently.

III. Greenway Subcommittee on Signs-Helen Cozzetto, MN DNR and Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of Grand Forks

We have to make signs but Corps will provide us with kiosks. Our responsibility to come up with company to produce signs. How are we going to do that? Once map is done this should probably be one panel. Game and Fish likes example of DNR map. DNR doesn't think Corps is doing much in East Grand Forks for kiosks. Think of signs and interpretative information as two

separate issues. Interpretive areas will have interpretive signage and kiosks will have different information. Style of kiosks will vary at different locations. Would be nice to have overall Greenway map at each site with “you are here” indication. City of Grand Forks didn’t envision overall map being on a plaque. Perhaps in a kiosk or hanging up. Could do a small map where each panel has it in the corner with the “you are here”. Is the DLG going to be doing anything downtown with the kiosks? Traie-Talked about kiosk in Town Square but more events oriented kiosk. Who funds interpretive panels downtown? City of Grand Forks mentioned mitigation agreement with Corps to place information near site of former NPR bridge describing the history of the bridge. Plaques in downtown area will designate Rotary Park Area and a plaque recognizing the Garrison Diversion Conservancy in the Community Green. Anything beyond that has no funding source. Traie mentioned that she thought the DLG would be interested in seeing interpretive panels of the history of the downtown. Helen showed examples of DNR interpretive signage. DNR will do interpretive signage for Red River State Recreation Area. Already have some interpretive information put together. Where would the interpretive information be located? In the big areas like kiosks. They could also be translated into panels. Who makes these? DNR staff puts them together but sends them out to be produced. Do they fade? No. Have new material that is used. Could get some additional information from the Corps and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Will maps be on Internet? Eventually. Do we have a web site? City of Grand Forks has web site, which covers both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. Melanie is concerned with developing interpretive information. If we could work with Grand Forks and East Grand Forks on mapping and forwarding the information to DNR to do more detailed mapping and work with them on interpretive information, maybe there’s ways we can do other promotional information about the project. We would need some help with the interpretive production of the plaques. Does DLG fit into here somewhere? Would certainly promote the Greenway but I’d rather see the web site and other promotional items taken care of by a group dedicated to the Greenway.

Melanie-Talked about signage subcommittee. What has developed is two separate issues mapping and interpretive information. Would like to continue working with this group or smaller subcommittee to continue with the mapping if we could continue working on interpretive information and bringing this information back to this committee. Is it too early to start interpretation? Is Lincoln Park Neighborhood Committee far enough along to do something like this? EGF feels it will evolve over time. Melanie feels the area that may not change and need to move forward on Lincoln Dr. Park interpretative information. Need to put together some interpretive information of the neighborhood and park because park may be open next spring. Feel like we need to start working on it because area will be done soon. Would like to work with DNR on it if possible. Same situation as Sherlock Park but different use. We want to standardize interpretive signage, City of Grand Forks would like to do this as well and don’t have any problems standardizing it. Just struggling with whom can do it. DNR suggested that this might be a task for the Lincoln Dr. group. Melanie sees this group as a good point of contact for whatever is put down there. Right now they don’t have a clear vision of what they want to do in the park but it would benefit us to have their input on any information we put together.

Would like to see the overall map done as soon as possible. Will continue to work on mapping issues and bring back to group with another draft copy. We will do what we can before the next meeting. Suggestion to leave streets out with leaving only major streets in. Ann suggested having

13th Ave., Lincoln Dr., 32nd Ave., and other major roads. Helen suggested adding symbol where openings are into the Greenway. Melanie mentioned that they will have vehicle access and parking, which is what was talked about. Doesn't hurt to have other openings indicated on the map. Think we should include as much information as we know is going to happen. Are larger kiosks in Lincoln Dr. Park? Smaller version that you would put a 24"x 36" plaque on.

Do we need to have a separate subcommittee on maps and interpretive information? DNR suggested to get mapping done first then decide. DNR Staff can get involved although they are busy until August. They could share expertise on both sides of the river if it fits in their scope of work.

Other Issues

MPO considering doing "Trail Blazing Study", to determine what signs to put on major streets to funnel people downtown.

What happened with canoe route on the Red River meeting? About 30 people came. Any funding for this area? Helen mentioned that most of money used up between Whapeton and Fargo. The master planning for the route is suppose to be done by fall.

Recap on Aerial Photography Issue. Are we going to write a letter for the MPO supporting a need for aerial photos? A representative from the group should get approval from each City Council. Dale is going to wait to see what Melanie does. If Grand Forks decided to do this than he will just go and to bring this (Minutes from May 14, 2002 meeting) to Craig our City Manager. Letters go to MPO. Yes then to the MPO Executive Board. Do we need to vote on that? Already in the minutes of last meeting. Does everyone concur? Consensus-Yes.

Non-paved Trail Plan is still being worked on by MPO and there will be a public meeting in the future.

Next meeting: August 13, 2002, 10:30 am at the Grand Forks Park District Office

Agenda Items: Mapping Rough Draft- Greg Boppre and Melanie Parvey-Biby

Minutes submitted by Ben Ehreth, Greenway Specialist
June 19, 2002