

Gateway Trail Extension Meeting Summary, 7/3/19

The meeting was held at the DNR offices. In attendance were Steve Young (Parks & Trails), Kent Skaar, Rachel Hintzman and Brandon Helm (DNR), Bob Hagstrom and Dennis Lindeke (GBCTA) and Bill Voedisch (May Twp). The following is a summary of the significant items discussed:

- The Westmister RR bridge replacement project was approved by the Legislature, with the help of a \$150,000 F RTP grant. The bridge will be raised from the current 11.5' height, to 17' in clearance. The project includes rebuilding the trail for 1,500 – 2,000 feet to the east of the bridge, and all the way to Arlington Ave on the west side. The project will be bid this fall, with construction starting next spring. The trail will be shut down in this area for the duration of the project.

- The 0.65 L'Orient Ave segment was also approved. The segment will be built in MNDOT right of way, to connect with the Maryland Ave tunnel, on the west side of 35E. Design will start soon, with probable construction in 2021.

- Trail Extension:
 - Another piece of good news from the Legislature: The agricultural easement was removed on a section of property between Scandia and William O'Brian Park. This effort was championed by the City of Scandia. This will enable trail construction in that section, otherwise potential construction would have to wait until the easement expired.

- Preliminary design for the new trail has been completed for the segment along Oak Hill Road, south of Scandia.
- William O'Brian Park: The properties on the north and south trail entrances to the Park have been secured. The next challenge is to determine the best route through the Park, given the park uses and the unique and varied ecosystems.

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