



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-5035

Department of Community Development

300 Sixth Street

Patsy Horton, Division Manager
Long Range Planning Division
city web: www.rcgov.org

Phone: 605-394-4120
Fax: 605-394-6636
e-mail: patsy.horton@rcgov.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization Committees

FROM: Patsy Horton, Division Manager

DATE: November 14, 2019

RE: **19TP036 – Approve the Letter of Support for the City of Rapid City to secure the Mitchell to Rapid City railbanked right-of-way between Rapid City and Kadoka**

In August, 2019, the State of South Dakota issued an Invitation for Proposals to Purchase State-owned Rail Lines, offering rail operators, leaseholders and other interested parties in submitting a proposal to purchase all or portions of the State-owned rail property.

Because of the 1980 Milwaukee Rail Embargo, many of the South Dakota railroad lines were purchased by outside rail operators. The State purchased the balance of the rail lines to ensure economic vitality for those enterprises / agencies utilizing the remaining essential rail lines that were not purchased by outside rail operators. The State then restored most of the lines with access for major rail carriers. However, the State designated the non-operating portions as “railbanked” right-of-way, including that portion of the Mitchell to Rapid City line (MRC) between Rapid City and Kadoka. Railbanking was established in 1983 as part of the National Trails System Act to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. Since that time, the State has removed the track within nearly all of the railbanked lines.

The City of Rapid City has submitted a purchase proposal to purchase the MRC railbanked property. A successful proposal will ensure public ownership of this railbanked property to create another rail-to-trail conversion, similar to what the State accomplished with the George S. Mickelson Trail. If successful, city staff will work with numerous public and private agencies to secure funding to create the Mako Sica Trail, another “hall of fame” rail-trail.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the Letter of Support for the City of Rapid City to secure the Mitchell to Rapid City railbanked right-of-way between Rapid City and Kadoka.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER