
MEDIA RELEASE: March 8, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Plan **HUD Update**

In the fall of 2010 the Region Five Development Commission received a HUD grant. The grant supports a multi-jurisdictional planning effort and will be used to build economic competitiveness throughout the region. The areas of focus are housing, transportation, economic development and land use. A series of updates will follow the accomplishments of this planning effort and let you know about the exciting things that are happening in the region.

The issues and opportunities faced by businesses, local governments and citizens are commonly shared throughout the region. Twenty-six activities in the focus areas are being addressed. This is the third in a series of updates to the citizens in the region.

FUNDING RECEIVED TO CONNECT STATE TRAILS

The concept of a trail bordering the edge of Camp Ripley began as a local initiative. A state trail was legislatively authorized in 2009 to connect the Paul Bunyan Trail, Crow Wing State Park, near the Camp Ripley perimeter, to the Soo Line Trail south of Little Falls. Morrison, Crow Wing and Cass Counties along with the Region Five Development Commission, Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail Committee, and the Minnesota DNR, have initiated a corridor study for this trail to identify issues and needs within the area and to consider potential future alignment options for this multi-use state trail.

Through a combination of public, private and non-profits donations, \$50,000 was raised to hire Bolton & Menk Inc. to conduct the trail study. The corridor study is the first step in the development of a required DNR Master Plan for this state trail. The trail master plan will be developed through a collaborative process between the DNR and local communities. A steering committee has been formed to guide the planning process. The effort is anticipated to take about a year, with several opportunities for public input and community involvement. For further information visit: www.crvtrail.com then click on "Corridor

Study” for periodic updates and upcoming meeting dates. Or contact Phil Martin, Project Manager by email: phillipma@bolton-menk.com or by phone (218) 821.7265.

This has been an update on the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Plan, Planning for the future and working to improve the quality of life in Region Five.

Stay Tuned More to Come!

“The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government.”