

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$7,500,000 in funding for the Scott County Merriam Junction Regional Trail and Riverbank Stabilization Project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Scott County, 200 Fourth Avenue West, Shakopee, MN 55379.

The funding would be used to convert 2.2 miles of abandoned rail bed, swampland and shoreline trails to a resilient regional multi-use, accessible destination trail connecting Scott and Carver Counties across the Minnesota River. The requested funding will allow for the remediation of a segment of the Merriam Junction Regional Trail which will provide alternative transportation options for communities isolated by the Minnesota River. It will also stabilize the shoreline of the Minnesota River, which continues to erode and, if not stabilized quickly, will exacerbate water quality issues on this portion of the river, potentially having an adverse impact on the United States largest inland grain handling port as well as downstream communities on the Minnesota and Mississippi River systems.

This project is a valuable use of taxpayer money because it will stimulate all season recreational activities and serve pedestrians and outdoor enthusiasts year-round. Local businesses will benefit from trail users visiting local businesses. The trail also has the potential to generate significant new economic opportunities associated with all seasons recreational trail activities. The dollars spent at these businesses will go directly back into the local economy.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress