

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Transportation & Public Works  
**Date:** 9/29/2015  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Prepared by:** Jennifer Swanson, Interagency Coordinator, Public Works  
**Presented by:** Steve Kotke, Director of Public Works  
**File type:** Action  
**Subcategory:** Contracts & Agreements

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**Subject:**

Petition to acquire or use right-of-way of a rail line proposed to be abandoned for interim trail use and rail banking pursuant to 49 C.F.R 1152.29

**Description:**

Approving and authorizing the filing of the Petition to acquire or use right-of-way of a rail line proposed to be abandoned for interim trail use and rail banking pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1152.29 that was signed by the City Attorney's office and submitted to the United States Surface Transportation Board on September 23, 2015.

**Previous Actions:**

None

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**Ward/Neighborhood/Address:**

Ward 2  
Prospect Park-East River Road

**Background/Analysis:**

The Minneapolis Bicycle Master Plan includes a bicycle and pedestrian trail, called the Prospect Park Trail, on a corridor that is currently railroad right-of-way in the Prospect Park-East River Road neighborhood. On September 14, 2015, the Surface Transportation Board published notice of an abandonment proceeding initiated by the Soo Line railroad for a portion of that railroad right-of-way. The City desires to potentially use the segment of the Soo Line railroad right-of-way that is the subject of that proceeding for the proposed trail. Therefore, a petition for acquiring or use of right-of-way of a rail line for interim trail use and rail banking was filed by the City Attorney's office by the September 24, 2015 deadline. The petition was filed with a disclaimer that the statements required ratification by the City Council at the next available meeting.

With approval of this filing, Public Works staff will perform due diligence and examine the feasibility of the site and trail design. Staff will seek Council approval for any future contracts associated with this trail.

**Financial Review:**

**No financial impact.**

**Attachments:**

1. Petition filed September 23, 2015.