

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

**To:** Transportation & Public Works  
**Date:** 3/22/2016  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Prepared by:** Donald Pflaum, Transportation Planner, Transportation Planning & Programming  
**Presented by:** Donald Pflaum, Transportation Planner, Transportation Planning & Programming  
**File type:** Action  
**Subcategory:** Contracts & Agreements

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**Subject:**

Negotiate with Soo Line Railroad (CP Rail) to possibly acquire ROW needed for the future Prospect Park Trail

**Description:**

Authorizing the proper City officials to negotiate with CP Rail for the possible acquisition of property needed to construct the Prospect Park Trail.

**Previous Actions:**

September 29, 2015 – Approving and authorizing the filing of a 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 signed by the City Attorney’s Office and submitted to the United States Surface Transportation Board on September 23, 2015.

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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 (CP Rail) for a portion of that railroad right-of-way. The City would like to potentially use the segment of the Soo Line railroad right-of-way that is the subject of that proceeding for the proposed abandonment and some additional active railroad property just south of the abandoned area (See Attachment #1 – Segments B and C) so that a trail connection can be made between 27th Avenue and Franklin Avenue Southeast. A portion of Segment C is still needed for railroad operations but it is technically possible for the trail to be placed along an active track in this segment.

City staff will bring this item back to the City Council if a purchase price can be established. A future appropriation may be needed.

**Financial Review:**

**Additional appropriation required.**

**Future budget impact anticipated.**

**Attachments:**

1. Attachment #1 - Location Map
2. Attachment #2 – Bicycle System Map