Rachel Bland

From: Alex Jordan
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 1:51 PM
To: Rachel Bland
Cc: Kelsi McNutt
Subject: FW: Minnesota Valley State Trail - snowmobile route concern

Working relationship proof.

Alex Jordan, P.E.
City Engineer, City Of Shakopee
485 Gorman St., Shakopee MN 55379
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From: Alex Jordan
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2024 8:46 AM
To: Henzen, Rachel (DNR) <Rachel.Henzen@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Minnesota Valley State Trail - snowmobile route concern

Thanks Rachel – as we continue to refine the plans, we will make sure to follow that guidance.
Alex

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From: Henzen, Rachel (DNR) <Rachel.Henzen@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2024 8:43 AM
To: Alex Jordan <AJordan@ShakopeeMN.Gov>
Subject: RE: Minnesota Valley State Trail - snowmobile route concern

Alex,
In reviewing the concept plan, I don't think we have any concerns with the plan at this point. The only thing I'll mention is that the state trail should be the main corridor through the area so all other trails should stop for it. Certainly as your planning continues, keep me in the loop.
Thanks,

Rachel Henzen
(she/her/hers)
PAT Area Supervisor | Division of Parks and Trails

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1200 Warner Road

St Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-259-5875
Email: rachel.henzen@state.mn.us
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

From: Alex Jordan <AJordan@ShakopeeMN.Gov>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:38 AM
To: Henzen, Rachel (DNR) <Rachel.Henzen@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Minnesota Valley State Trail - snowmobile route concern

Rachel – thanks for taking the time to review the snowmobile trail options. As discussed, I will meet with the County today to review options along CR101.

Attached are the current concepts for the City's Riverbank Stabilization Project. Here is a summary of the exhibits:

- Pages 1 and 2 – overall rendering of the proposed improvements.
  - On Page 2 – DNR/MN Valley State Trail shown in orange, extending from Holmes St Bridge to the marina. The trail is elevated to the 25 year HWL (elevation 715 compared to current 708).
- Pages 3 and 4 – These are two concepts for an Art Plaza between the Holmes and CR101 Bridges (replacing the current parking lot). In either option, the trail would need to bypass the plaza (shown in dark gray)
- Page 5 – This is the area north of the new playground. We are proposing to construct a terrace overlook which would connect to the DNR trail (dark grey). This area may include bike parking/a new trailhead.

I'm happy to set up a meeting to review these details further with you or your staff.
Thanks!
Alex

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From: Henzen, Rachel (DNR) <Rachel.Henzen@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Alex Jordan <AJordan@ShakopeeMN.Gov>
Subject: RE: Minnesota Valley State Trail - snowmobile route concern

Alex,
It looks like I could make anytime on Monday work or Tuesday/Wednesday between 8-9am.
Thanks,

Rachel Henzen
(she/her/hers)

PAT Area Supervisor | Division of Parks and Trails

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1200 Warner Road
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From: Alex Jordan <AJordan@ShakopeeMN.Gov>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2024 12:49 PM
To: Henzen, Rachel (DNR) <Rachel.Henzen@state.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Minnesota Valley State Trail - snowmobile route concern

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Thanks Rachel. Let me know what f there are some times that work for you next week before Thanksgiving to discuss this. I've got meetings scattered across each day but should be able to set aside some time.
Thanks.

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From: Henzen, Rachel (DNR) <Rachel.Henzen@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2024 12:33:17 PM
To: Alex Jordan <AJordan@ShakopeeMN.Gov>
Subject: Minnesota Valley State Trail - snowmobile route concern

Alex,
I left you a voicemail but wanted to follow up with an email on our current situation with the State Trail in Shakopee.

This summer a large tree fell on the bridge on the state trail corridor in Shakopee behind the Travelodge. The tree caused irreparable damage to the bridge and the bridge was recently removed as part of a trail reconstruction project in the area.

With the bridge no longer in place, it was determined yesterday that there is not an option to cross the creek in this location for the snowmobile trail. The trail is on Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) property in this location and we can't get approval to remove trees or cross the riverbed from both a cultural resource and natural resource perspective. The SMSC also owns all the property in the surrounding area that we need to cross to implement a reroute. At this time the DNR has asked permission from the SMSC for a reroute and we have been denied that request. We are working on more robust plans to show the impact of the proposed reroute and the replacement of the bridge in hopes of restarting that conversation but that won't happen in time for the winter season. However at this point there isn't an option for a reroute at the bridge site. At this point I think there's 3 options for moving forward:

1. Ask the City/County if we could use the reroute option below. I find this to be an unlikely proposal from everyone's perspective as it's an incredibly long reroute.

+

2. Some combination of the City, County, and Snowmobile Club ask the SMSC for a reroute. Again they've said no to the DNR but if more people ask maybe there'd be more likelihood to say yes. The proposed reroute would look like this and would also require City approval.

3. Acknowledge there will be a severance in the trail. The DNR will continue to work with SMSC to see what can happen longer-term and hopefully the trail is only like this for one winter season.

Regarding the state trail during non-snowmobile season, there will be a severance in the corridor with no reroute in place.

I'm happy to talk through any of these scenarios and issues. I have also been in touch with the County and Snowmobile Club so everyone is on the same page.

Thanks,

Rachel Henzen
(she/her/hers)
PAT Area Supervisor | Division of Parks and Trails

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