

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF AITKIN'S APPLICATION FOR MNDOT
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM GRANT**

WHEREAS, Aitkin Public School ISD #1 recognizes the importance of promoting safe, accessible, and sustainable alternative transportation options for students, staff, and the community, including pedestrians and cyclists; and

WHEREAS, Aitkin Public School ISD #1 is committed to supporting infrastructure improvements that ensure the safety of students, staff, and community members, and promote equal access for all, including those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 0.38 miles of the pedestrian and bicycle trail in the City of Aitkin crosses school property (east of Rippleside Elementary) and is an integral part of the community's transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the pedestrian bridge in the City of Aitkin has deteriorated and poses safety hazards for pedestrians and cyclists, while approximately 1.12 miles of the surrounding walking and bicycle path require reconstruction to address safety issues and ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

WHEREAS, the City of Aitkin intends to apply for funding through the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Program to support the replacement of the dilapidated pedestrian bridge and the reconstruction of the walking and bicycle path to address these safety hazards and ensure ADA compliance, including the section of trail that crosses school property; and

WHEREAS, this project aligns with the City of Aitkin Park Master Plan, adopted by the Aitkin City Council on September 5, 2023, which designates the replacement of the pedestrian bridge as a high priority; and

WHEREAS, Aitkin Public School ISD #1 acknowledges the significance of this project in improving the safety and accessibility of the trail that crosses school property, and fully supports efforts to enhance infrastructure for all throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the city's trail system provides an important connection between the north and south sides of Aitkin, offering a safer route for students and staff traveling to and from Rippleside Elementary, Aitkin High School, and the school athletic fields, instead of walking along busy streets or highways;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Aitkin Public School ISD #1 Board of Education hereby supports the City of Aitkin's application for the MNDOT Active Transportation Infrastructure Program grant to fund the replacement of the pedestrian bridge and the reconstruction of approximately 1.12 miles of walking/bicycle path, including the portion that crosses school property, to ensure safety and ADA compliance for all students, staff, and members of the Aitkin community.

School Board Chair

Date