



## ITEM REPORT UTILITIES COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 3/4/2026  
Agenda Section: Information Only

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**Department Origination:** Public Works

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**Agenda Item:** 2027 CSAH 48 Trail (Highland Scenic Road) Trail Connection Project – Monthly Update

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**Approval Required:** No Action Required

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### **BACKGROUND**

On July 16th, 2024 the City of Baxter approved the WSB Professional Services Contract for the 2027 CSAH 48 (Highland Scenic Road) Trail Connections Project (federally funded), municipal project number 4140. The first of two segments will connect Marohn Road/Foley Road to Ashdale Lane, and the second segment will connect Knollwood Drive. to Isle Drive. The pedestrian crossings at Marohn Road/Foley Road and Parkwood Drive are being updated as well with refuges/medians.

The project utilizes two grants that were awarded to the City of Baxter. A Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant in the amount of \$750,000, and a Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) grant in the amount of \$306,629. The City of Baxter, Crow Wing County, and WSB have held meetings throughout the preliminary design stage to gather feedback, and the current plans and design are 90% complete.

WSB, City Staff, and Crow Wing County have been working together to address the underfunded TA segment of the trail improvements. An additional \$154,740.00 TA grant dollars have been obtained and have been applied to this segment to reduce the City cost.

WSB is collaborating with the City to secure both temporary and permanent easements, aiming to complete the process by Spring 2026. The final plans and project specifications are scheduled for completion in Spring 2026, followed by the bidding phase in late Spring and bid openings in the Summer of 2026.

WSB and City Staff are also currently working with Crow Wing County to identify a cost share agreement. These conversations are ongoing and have the potential to offset some of the City of Baxter cost.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Currently the plans, design, and construction estimate are 100% complete and are awaiting state aid approval.

Segment 1 of the trail is now properly funded through the additional TA grant amount. The tables below reflect the updated TA grant amount and show the current anticipated project cost for The City of Baxter without any Crow Wing County cost participation.

Budget Line Item	Original Project Budget	Current Anticipated Project Costs
Construction Segment 1 (TA Portion)	\$ 383,286.00	\$ 607,738.93
Construction Segment 2 (HSIP Portion)	\$ 825,000.00	\$ 717,528.15
Construction	\$ 1,208,286.00	\$ 1,325,267.08
Engineering	\$ 420,247.00	\$ 420,247.00
Preliminary Engineering*		\$ -
ROW Acquisition	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 81,000.00
Bonding, Finance Admin., Mics.	\$ 36,250.00	\$ 39,760.00
Total Project Budget	\$ 1,735,783.00	\$ 1,866,274.08

\* Completed by others

Project Funding Group	Original Funding	Projected Funding
TA Grant (Segment 1)	\$ 306,629.00	\$ 461,369.00
HSIP Grant (Segment 2)	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 645,775.34
Crow Wing County	-	-
City of Baxter:		
City of Baxter TA Cost Share (20%)	\$ 76,657.00	\$ 115,342.25
City of Baxter HSIP Cost Share (10%)	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 71,752.81
Remainder of Construction	\$ -	\$ 31,027.68
Engineering	\$ 420,247.00	\$ 420,247.00
Preliminary Engineering*	\$ -	\$ -
ROW Acquisition	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 81,000.00
Bonding, Finance Admin., Mics.	\$ 36,250.00	\$ 39,760.00
Total City Cost:	\$ 679,154.00	\$ 759,129.75
Total Project Cost:	\$ 1,735,783.00	\$ 1,866,274.08

\* Completed by others

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED**