



STAFF REPORT

DATE: 1/8/18

REGULAR

FROM: Ben Prchal, City Planner
AGENDA ITEM: Central Greenway Regional Trail Update
REVIEWED BY: Rob Weldon, Public Works Director
Parks Commission (12.17.2018)

BACKGROUND:

The City and Washington County Staff have been working towards planning the best route for the trail through Lake Elmo. During the design process, two primary groups were established, a community work group consisting of residents and commission members and a technical work group consisting of staff members. There were also multiple open houses for individuals who were not part of either group to provide feedback. After taking input from both groups and the open houses Staff believes, at this time that formal preparation of material for review by the Metropolitan Council should begin.

ISSUE BEFORE CITY COUNCIL:

Would the Council like to approve the letter, amend the letter, or not provide a letter at all?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

Washington County would like to receive a letter of support from the City for the Central Greenway Trail. Attached with this report are maps which outline the proposed route (interim and final). The proposed route hits the objectives of the City by going past the school as well as downtown Lake Elmo. This trail will provide residents the ability to travel from the south end of the City all the way to the north on a dedicated road separated trail. There would also be the possibility of other trails to branch off and bring users to different areas within the City. Those however, would be a City lead initiative. Washington County has asked the City to provide a letter of support for the project. The more support that the trail can receive the better it will look when it goes in front of the reviewing agencies. The Parks Commission has also voted to support the trail as it has been presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City is expected to cover 25% of the cost burden to construct the trail. There is the possibility for grants to cover portions of the cost. Staff believes that the City Council should not provide funding unless grants are applied for before the expenses are split. Staff believes this will provide the City with the best opportunity to receive funding. The funding will be scheduled after the planning process and approval has been given by Met Council. The following numbers are based off of a different trail alignment but reasonably serve as a place holder.

The 2019 – 2023 CIP has cost expenditures broken out for two years, 2021 and 2022 with the total trail cost coming to **\$1,592,961**.

Expected City Cost for 2021 - \$206,829

Expected City Cost for 2022 - \$191,400

RECOMMENDATION:

“Motion to provide the letter of support as it has been presented”

ATTACHMENTS:

- Central Greenway Regional Trail Map(s)
- Letter of Support

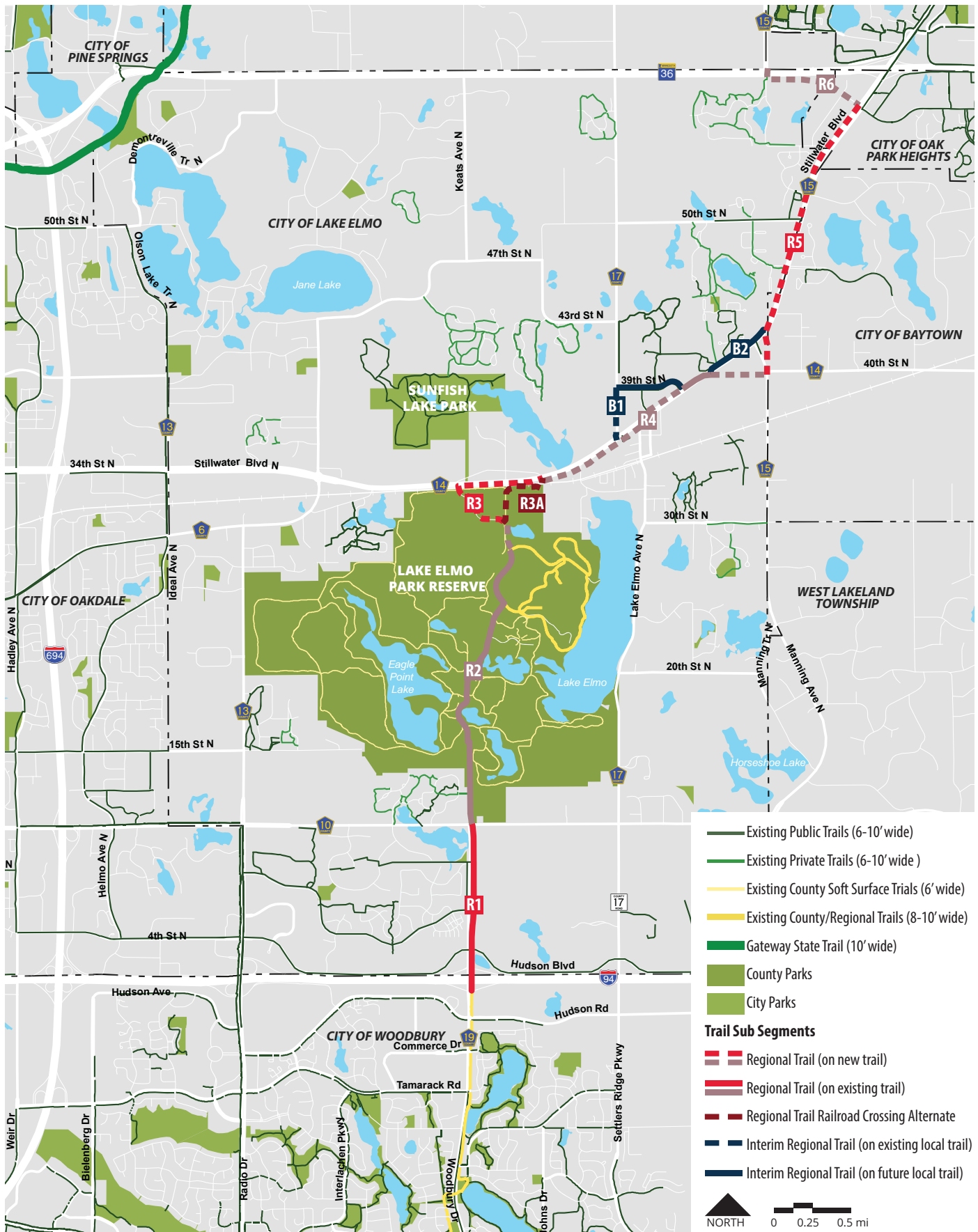
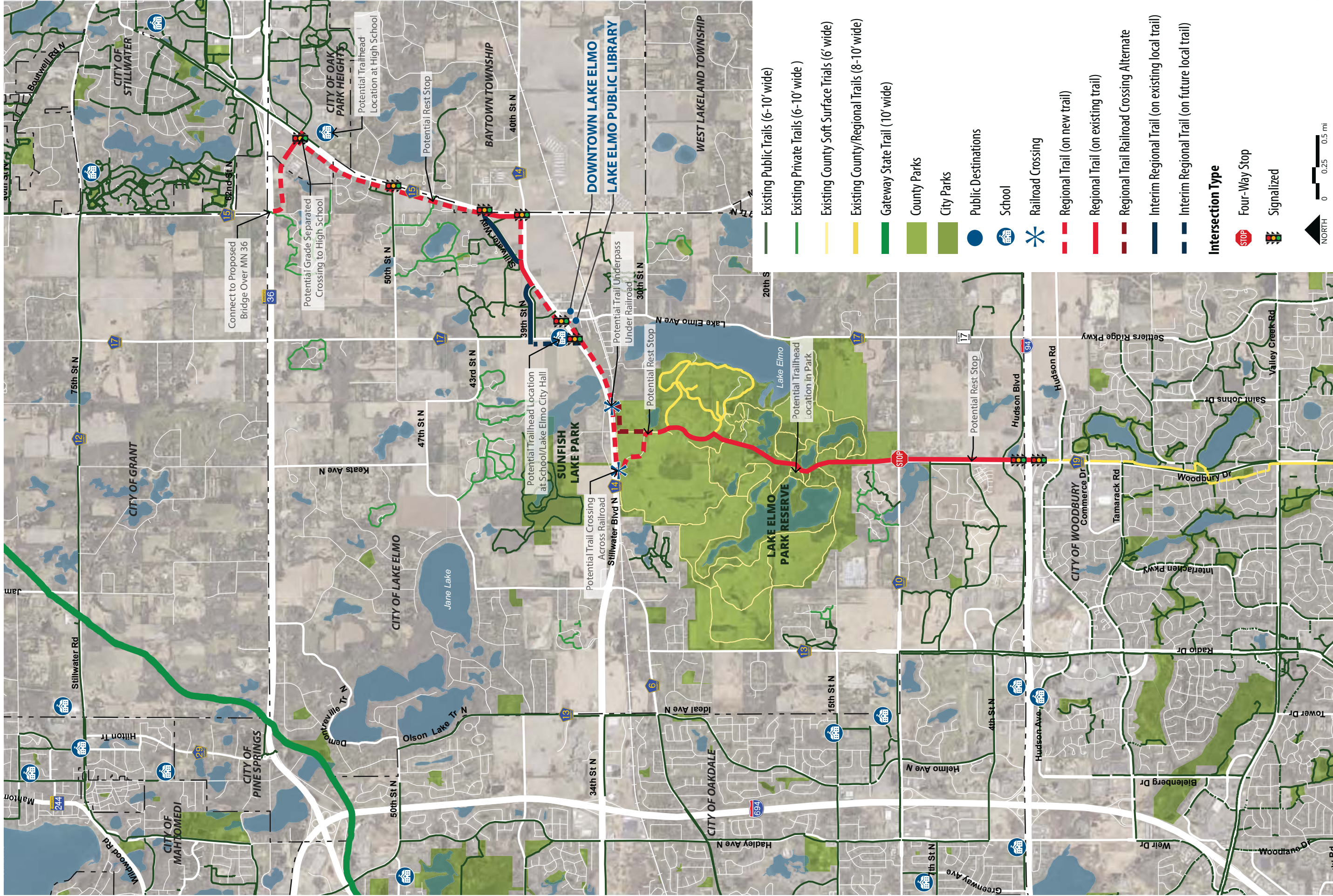


Figure 19: Central Greenway Regional Trail Lake Elmo Segment Map.



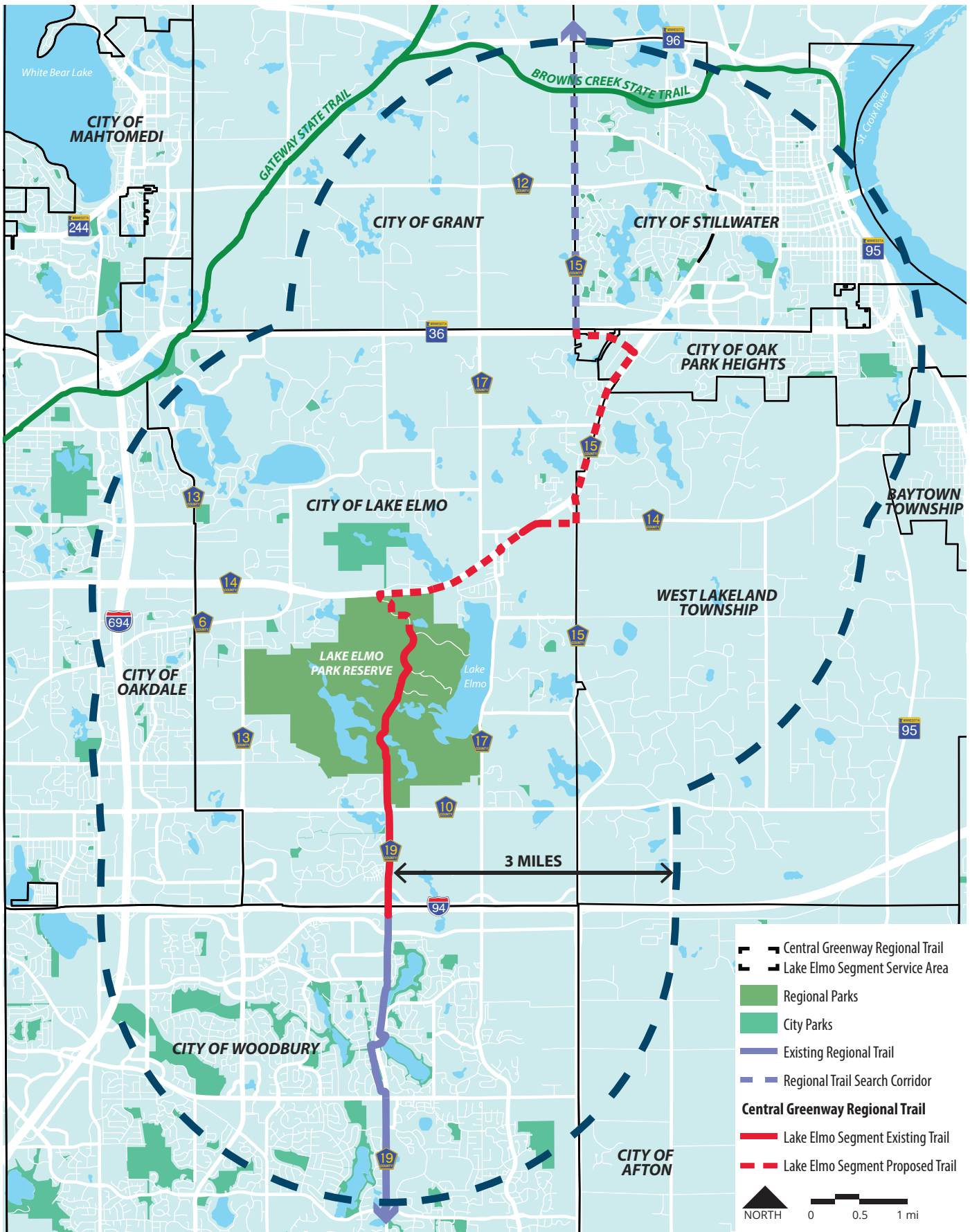


Figure 10: Trail Primary Service Area Map



January 8, 2019

Metropolitan Council Chair and Parks and Open Space Commission
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: Central Greenway Regional Trail – Lake Elmo Segment

Chair Tchourumoff and Commission Members,

The Lake Elmo City Council is excited to provide a letter of support for the Lake Elmo segment of the Washington County Central Greenway Regional Trail. The representatives of Lake Elmo strongly believe the proposed trail will play an important part of the City's and Washington County's trail system. The trail will fill an existing gap in the pedestrian and bicycle network both regionally and locally. The City is especially pleased with the idea of providing a road separated trail system for users to travel from the south end of the City to the north end without the worry of traveling on a roadway. The opportunity also hits one of the objectives of the City, which is to provide connectivity throughout. Though, connectivity without safety is not beneficial. An important aspect to this trail is safety, the City strives to build trails that provide safe connectivity for recreational users and school aged children, this trail has the ability to do.

Locally, this trail alignment will strengthen multimodal transportation for our community and allow users to safely access Lake Elmo Park Reserve, local businesses and schools. Regionally the City agrees that the Central Greenway Regional Trail will be a benefit by creating connectivity to other neighboring Cities. Connectivity has been a perused initiative for quite some time and the City will finally be able to provide a strong greenway to connect existing trails and build new trails into. Ultimately, the full build-out of this trail will provide a needed link in the regional trail system. Because of this and other listed reasons, the City is pleased to provide support for the Central Greenway Trail initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to send our support. We look forward to working with all agency partners involved with the Central Greenway Regional Trail.

Sincerely,

Mike Pearson, City of Lake Elmo Mayor