

A RESOLUTION REQUEST THE SIGNING OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL (MRT) IN WISCONSIN

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is a bicycle route, largely on the shoulders of low-volume paved roads, offering the safest and best bicycling experience along the length of the Mississippi River, through ten states, from the headwaters at Lake Itasca in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico south of New Orleans, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail was designated as one of only 16 National Millennium Trails which honor the past and imagine the future by preserving and commemorating major events and aspects of America's history and culture, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail provides access to and promotes the scenic, historic, archaeological, cultural, recreational and natural qualities of the Mississippi River and its amenities, and

WHEREAS other states, have recognized the advantages of the Mississippi River Trail and have already signed and marked it, and

WHEREAS the Minnesota Department of Transportation has fully completed marking and signing per the guidance of Minnesota State Statute 60.266 MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL and supporting statutes and memorandums, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail adds value to existing roads and trails, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is largely ready to sign and market, and many suggested improvements are already planned, and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Department of Transportation recognizes the Mississippi River Trail by providing a series of maps on its website at: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/travel/bike/bike-maps/grr.aspx>, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail will contribute to sustainable economic development in all of the Wisconsin Mississippi River communities, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail will contribute to healthy and ecologically sustainable recreation and transportation choices, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail continues Wisconsin's tradition of honoring and enhancing the Mississippi River, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail can maximize return on investment by coordinating route and amenity development and marketing with the **Great River Road National Scenic Byway**, which shares much of its alignment and also honors the river, and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail in Wisconsin offers multiple MRT bicycling experiences, each in a unique river landscape, and

WHEREAS signing increases the benefits of funding for projects that protect, enhance or promote resources that enrich the traveler's experience,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission, in order to receive full benefit of the Mississippi River Trail in Wisconsin, requests that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation mark and sign the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) on all state and US highways under its jurisdiction, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation coordinate with affected Cities, Village, Counties, and Townships and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding the designation of the MRT on affected local highways, roads, streets, trails, and paths, and that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation also sign and mark them when concurrences are reached, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation especially coordinate with the City of La Crosse to develop an enhanced riverside route through the city.

Approved by Resolution on August 17, 2018

Signature

Sherry Quamme
Chairperson, Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission