

Flyway Trail Mini Case Statement Background

Flyway Trail holds the promise of a 50-mile trail along Wisconsin's spectacular Mississippi River coast, giving hikers and bikers from throughout the Midwest the opportunity to enjoy and explore the river and its bluffs. When complete, this trail will provide recreation for its users and spearhead economic development for the area. Linking to Minnesota at Winona and Wabasha, Flyway Trail opens the way for interstate human-powered tourism. Connection to the existing Great River State Trail at Marshland opens access to all of Wisconsin's trails.

Trail planning began in 2014 when Buffalo County Land & Trails Trust was formed as an independent volunteer 501(c)(3) group. Its first steps were to create an identity by naming it Flyway Trail and then commissioning a detailed feasibility study of potential routes. This study was financed by donations from cities, towns and villages along the route as well as Buffalo County. Additional funds have come from area businesses, foundations and individuals.

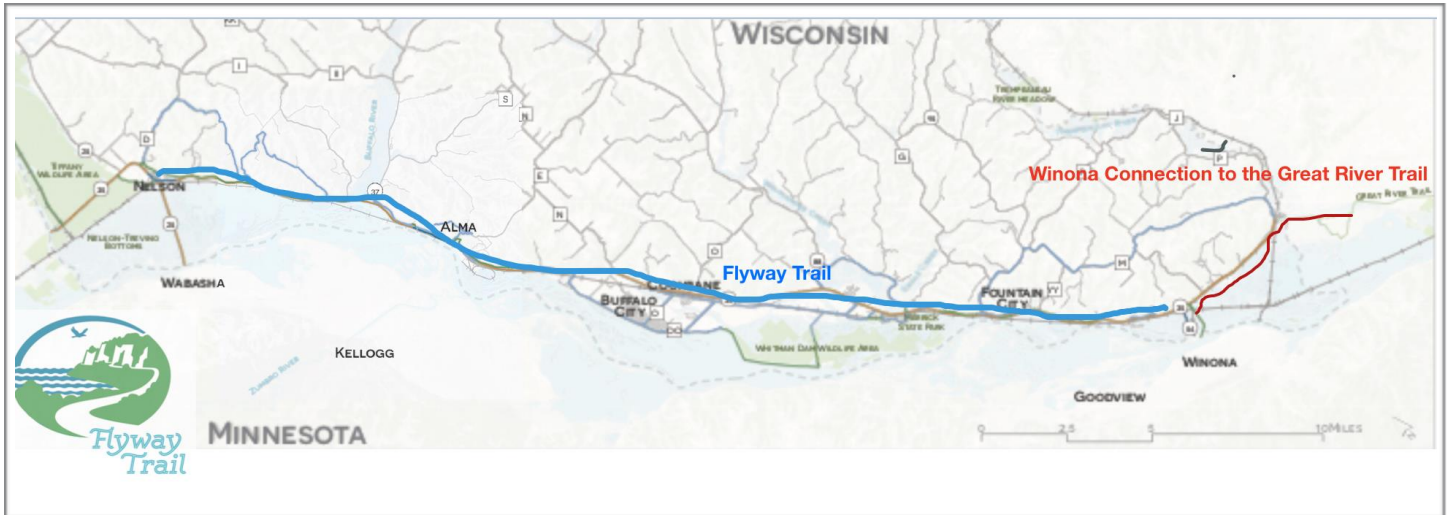
From the beginning, planners realized, an off-highway route to Winona would be crucial to the trail's success. The Winona Connector Bridge Project, administered by Buffalo County, does this and was awarded a Transportation grant in 2016 of approximately \$2.1M, along with ancillary grants of \$235,000 for state review of construction. The required 20 percent match from other sources needs to be in place before the grant deadline for the construction start. The County has applied for Wisconsin DNR grant funding for this match. However, if funding is not available in the current grant cycle, it is the goal for Flyway Trail to provide privately donated funds to fulfill the match requirement.

Winona Area Mountain Bikers is a 501(c)(3) outdoor recreation advocate focused on bicycling for the Winona region. It recognizes the potential of recreational trail development and the pivotal importance of the Winona Connector Bridge to this purpose. It is partnering with Buffalo County Land & Trails Trust to research fundraising capacity and to formulate a strategy for a possible capital campaign. This Campaign Readiness Study is funded by the Trust.

The table below of estimated construction costs for the trail route has been divided into phases. These estimates are difficult to calculate and have been adjusted for assumed future inflation until completion. Most critical is Phase 1: the Winona Connector, and the extension to Marshland to meet the Great River Trail.

A Campaign Readiness Study with Crescendo Fundraising Professionals, LLC, will be conducted to assess the viability and development of a strategy to reach a \$4M goal to provide the necessary match from regional businesses, individuals and corporations. A successful campaign will enable matching funds needed for the various grant cycles for Phase 1 and Phase 2.

	Flyway Trail Sections	Total Cost	Public Funding Available	Private Funding Needed	Campaign Timing
Phase 1A	Winona Connector	\$2.6M	\$2.1M*	\$0.5M	2019-2020
Phase 1B	Buffalo Town Park to Marshland	\$1.0M	\$0.8M	\$0.2M	2019-2020
Phase 2	Winona to Alma	\$16.5M	\$13.2M	\$3.3M	2023
Phase 3	Alma to Chippewa River	\$9.0M	\$7.2M	\$1.8M	2024
Completion Phases 1-3	Flyway Trail link of the Great River State and National Trail	\$29.0M includes 15% contingency and inflation	\$23.3M	\$5.7M	2026



* Grant Awarded