



LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

February 20, 2018

Mayor Barry Greenburg and City Council  
Marty Corcoran, City Manager  
7601 Manchester Rd.  
Maplewood, Mo. 63143

Dear Mayor Greenburg, City Council Members and Mr. Corcoran;

Thank you for your letter. We are heartened to hear that you are interested in pursuing the greenway for your residents and we appreciate the further information you seek. While support from the City of Maplewood helped to secure the federal transportation grant that put the project on a specific deadline, it is clear that this project is not ready to progress on the original timeline within the original scope of the project. Your letter outlines new elements and considerations to be explored. We have worked hard to address many issues and concerns the City has raised since last August. Please understand that the delayed amount of time in providing these additional specific issues puts Great Rivers Greenway (GRG) well beyond the timeline needed to accomplish the requirements of the federal transportation grant for this project.

In response to your letter, our thoughts are outlined below:

- Item 1. This trail is part of a regional system and as such the minimum standard width needs to be ten feet. We can work together to evaluate the trail width in restricted areas. While we can accommodate the requests in a, b, c, e and f, we do not have the funding to address item d as part of the scope of this project.
- Item 2. We understand your concerns, however this intersection has existing conditions that would normally be addressed as part of a city planning effort. We are only proposing to work on the south side of the railway for the greenway. To address your concerns requires additional scope and design fee around the street and rail configuration. As far as items b and c, our staff and consultants have done research to find similar examples. We have not found a regional example of this unusual street configuration. It most likely will require a national research review to find an example.
- Item 3. While we appreciate your concerns regarding all items in this section, they are outside of the current scope of the project approved as part of the CMAQ grant and would require a new scope and planning effort. In addition, a crossing underneath Big Bend would require easements and land acquisition that take considerable time and could not be accommodated in the current scope of the project.



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With these issues in mind, we will decline the federal grant and release this project from those deadlines. That being said, should the City of Maplewood wish to consider a new planning effort for the Deer Creek to River Des Peres Greenway we would offer an opportunity to re-scope the project, pending GRG Board approval, as a collaborative process that addresses the issues in your letter and provides a connection that meets all of the standards of the regional trail system. In addition we would require the following:

- A. All items within the scope of the planning effort that are unrelated to the actual greenway would be funded by the City of Maplewood. We would not take on planning improvements to streets, intersections and railroad right of way that do not directly impact the greenway.
- B. The City must designate a representative who is empowered to make decisions and be available for regular meetings with GRG staff and consultants and is able to provide feedback and response in a timely and efficient manner.
- C. All community meetings will include GRG, this includes meetings with specific property owners and businesses.

We understand and respect your concerns and most certainly will plan for the best and safest greenway design. We do however take the responsibility for stewarding the region's tax dollars very seriously, and will not commit to build something regardless of cost.

If the City wishes to proceed with a new planning effort, please advise us NO LATER than April 30, 2018. Any further issues or discussion related to items A-C above must be conducted prior to this date, otherwise current funding will be reprogrammed for projects that are ready and waiting to move forward as part of our mid-year budget amendments.

Sincerely,

Susan Trautman  
CEO

CC: Great Rivers Greenway Board of Directors  
Scott Ogilvie, Alderman, City of St. Louis  
Jamie Wilson, Director of Streets, City of St. Louis  
John Kohler, Planning and Programming Manager, City of St. Louis