

DOCUMENTATION FOR USE OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Type of funds to be used for this project (**bold the type of funds**) **NPS Transportation Funds (Scenic Byways), 6286-Nxxx-xxx, PMIS No. 183966**

1. What type of competition is appropriate?

Competition was not considered because the Minnesota Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) is the sole authority responsible for coordinating the legislative activities of the Senate and House of Representatives, acting as the fiscal agent, and providing accounting and budget services, oversight and grant management support to Minnesota state agencies and organizations, including the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MNMRPC). The MNMRPC is the party that will be carrying out the tasks under this agreement. The LCC is responsible for the organizational support, accounting and budget services for the project.

2. Why was this cooperator selected?

The LCC was selected because they are the only organization authorized to perform the work specific to the funding awarded as per MN Statute 161.1419, Subdivision 1. The LCC is responsible for coordinating legislative activities, acting as fiscal agent, and providing accounting and budget services, oversight and grant management support for the project. (Minnesota Statute 3.303)

3. Who are the parties to the agreement?

National Park Service – Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MISS) and LCC on behalf of the MNMRPC.

4. What is the purpose of the Agreement?

The purpose of this Agreement is to develop and implement the components of the Great River Road Corridor Management Plan (CMP) that relate to the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MISS). The CMP will guide the work of the MNMRPC in MISS for the next 10-15 years, including the development of the 72-mile segment of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) in Minnesota. The Agreement focuses on the tasks specific to the Great River Road segments within MISS and is funded with \$140,000 in National Park Service matching funds to the MNMRPC's FY 2011 Scenic Byways grant funded through the Federal Highway Administration.

5. What are the deliverables expected?

This CMP will address issues specific to the MISS including an inventory and map of existing resources/intrinsic qualities, will incorporate recommendations from the MISS Visual Resource Protection Plan (under development through a separate Scenic Byway grant), and the park's 2011 Alternative Transportation Plan (ATP), fabricate and install

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wayfinding signs within the MISS for the MRT bike trail, develop and install in-town informational map/kiosk in MISS, implement an electronic media initiative to engage MRT riders in MISS, and print approximately 12,000 copies of the NPS Mississippi River Companion to promote the Great River Road and MRT in MISS.

6. Explain the nature of the anticipated substantial involvement. What will NPS specifically do to carry out the project?

Staff of the National Park Service (NPS) will participate as active members of the project's advisory and management teams, provide staff and services as necessary to cooperate with MNMRPC to develop and implement the GRR CMP in MISS, coordinate with MNMRPC to inventory and map existing resources/intrinsic qualities within MISS, provide recommendations from the MISS Visual Resource Protection Plan and apply to all six byway destinations, provide camera ready copy to MNMRPC for printing the Mississippi River Companion and include the Great River Road and MRT alignment and information, and cooperate with MNMRPC to develop and install an in-town informational map/kiosk in MISS.

7. Why is the substantial involvement considered to be necessary?

The MISS Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) specifies that the NPS will achieve management goals through partnerships with local authorities. NPS participation is necessary to ensure that the project is consistent with the MISS CMP and demonstrates how the CMP is implemented in cooperation with local land management authorities. NPS staff needs to participate in all aspects of the project in order to accurately represent NPS's role in the area, correctly interpret and apply MISS policies, ensure the GRR CMP serves park visitors, is consistent with the MISS Visual Resource and Alternative Transportation Plans, and actively contributes to resource protection and recreational development activities in the MISS. MISS staff will also be working with the cooperator to develop camera ready copy, interpretive materials and displays, chapters of the GRR Corridor Management Plan, and maps.

8. Explain why the project or activity entails a relationship of a cooperative agreement rather than a contract. How will the NPS benefit from this collaboration?

This is a cooperative agreement because the NPS is providing funds to a project partner to carry out a public purpose for local governments, agencies, and visitors in the MISS. The project does not involve an acquisition of goods or services for the direct benefit or use of the NPS. Ongoing NPS involvement is needed in order to develop all aspects of the project in a manner consistent with the MISS, and to integrate public participation into all activities (including ensuring public support and potential media coverage for the project). The NPS will benefit from this collaboration by receiving the services and products outlined in Item 5: Deliverables, and indicated in No. 7 (above). The development of the CMP cannot occur without MISS support. This agreement

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establishes a unique partnership between MISS, the LCC, and MNMRPC to implement the recommendations of the GRR CMP in MISS.

9. What is the public purpose of support or stimulation?

To protect, preserve, enhance, and interpret the nationally significant values of the River Corridor through the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

To aid concerted federal, state, and local planning and management by coordinating effective and efficient protection of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

To enhance opportunities for the general public, interest groups, and agencies to realize beneficial use and preservation of natural, cultural, economic, scenic, and recreation resources of the Mississippi River.

10. Which law or laws authorize granting of assistance for performance of this project or activity?

1. 16 U.S.C. § 1g which authorizes the NPS to enter into agreements.
2. 16 U.S.C. § 4601-1(d) which authorizes the NPS to cooperate with States.
3. 16 U.S.C. § 460zz-5(b) which authorizes MISS to enter into grants and agreements for non-Federal publicly owned lands within the Area.

11. How was the determination made that the costs proposed are accurate and proper? Provide a breakdown of costs and rationale for determining they are acceptable.

NPS staff consulted with project partners regarding costs for project development and management. We confirmed that by working with the LCC the process is more cost-effective and cannot be carried out in any other way according to MN statute. This approach minimizes the number of entities involved with the CMP's development and ensures all contracting is cost-effectively coordinated through the state's competitive bidding process. The non-federal matching share is from the Minnesota National Scenic Byway funds awarded to the MNMRPC through the LCC. These matching funds are secured and available.