

RESOLUTION -----

A resolution of the Missoula City Council to expend up to \$25,000 of 2006 Open Space Bond proceeds to purchase a perpetual public trail easement across the Schmidt Road Property that will provide a critical connection between the Milwaukee Trail corridor and Mullan Road and Trail as well as a future publicly accessible commuter and recreational trail, and to pay transaction and project-related costs associated with the acquisition.

Whereas, the City of Missoula adopted the *Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan 2019* (“*Open Space Plan*”), which provides a vision for continuing to expand upon the open space and trail systems throughout the greater Missoula Area;

Whereas, the conceptual framework of the *Open Space Plan* includes a structural model of Missoula’s open space system that includes three categories: Anchor Areas, Urban Green Spaces, and Corridors such as the Milwaukee Trail;

Whereas, the *Open Space Plan* sets forth the following implementation strategies for open space Corridors in Missoula: improve access and connectivity between parks, trails, and open spaces by filling gaps in commuter trail networks; expand existing commuter trail networks to connect with surrounding national forest recreation areas and under-connected areas of town; provide more paved and dirt trails for commuting and recreating;

Whereas, in November 2006, Missoula County citizens voted to approve a \$10,000,000 Open Space Bond that authorizes the Missoula County Commissioners to use the bond proceeds to protect open space lands and acquire commuter and recreational trails throughout the County, with \$5,000,000 being allocated to the City of Missoula for open space and trails within the Missoula Planning Region, as guided by the *Open Space Plan*;

Whereas, Article II, Section 2.1 of the April 5, 2007 *Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and the County of Missoula Related to Open Space Acquisition and Use of Open Space Bond Proceeds* (Interlocal Agreement) establishes the general purposes of the open space bond;

Whereas, this project will carry out the purposes of the 2006 Open Space Bond by providing open space; managing for growth; providing recreational trails; and paying non-personnel related transaction costs and other project related costs;

Whereas, many of the City’s land use planning documents, including the *2004 Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the Greater Missoula Area*, *Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan 2019*, *2011 Missoula Active Transportation Plan*, and the *Activate Missoula 2045 Missoula Long Range Transportation Plan* identify expanding the City’s non-motorized commuter trail network as a priority, specifically including the historic Milwaukee Road railroad corridor;

Whereas, the 2018 Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) survey indicated that paved trails for walking and biking comprise one of the five highest priorities among residents, and that 78% of Missoula County residents want more or better paved trails for walking and biking;

Whereas, public open spaces and trails are community assets that promote social equity and are available to all citizens regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, age, marital or familial status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression;

Whereas, The Mullan area is currently undergoing a master planning effort, the Mullan Area Master Plan, and residential and commercial development is expected to increase significantly in the area over the next several years;

Whereas, the Schmidt Road easement project provides a critical connection that will extend the Milwaukee Trail and link it to Mullan Road and Trail and surrounding neighborhoods and also provide a critical connection to the Rails to Trails Great American Trail connecting Washington DC to Seattle, WA, and;

Whereas, three gaps currently exist along the undeveloped portion of the Milwaukee Trail to the northwest of the Clark Fork River, and the Schmidt Road segment will eliminate one of those gaps;

Whereas, the project will connect residents of the growing Mullan area to City-owned open space and trails along the Clark Fork River, and ultimately to other services and amenities in Missoula's urban core via the Milwaukee Trail;

Whereas, the Schmidt Road easement project provides significant recreational value and builds on decades of open space investment, acquisitions, and planning efforts along the Milwaukee Trail corridor;

Whereas, on September 10, 2020, a quorum of the City's Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) voted to recommend that the City Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$25,000 in 2006 Open Space Bond funds for the acquisition of a perpetual public trail easement on the Schmidt Road Property;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Missoula City Council hereby approves the expenditure up to \$25,000 of 2006 Open Space Bond proceeds to purchase a perpetual public trail easement across the Schmidt Road Property that will provide a critical connection between the Milwaukee Trail corridor and Mullan Road and Trail as well as a future publicly accessible commuter and recreational trail, and to pay transaction and project-related costs associated with the acquisition.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of November, 2020.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Martha L. Rehbein
Legislative Services Director/City Clerk

John Engen
Mayor

(SEAL)