



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin Carter, Mayor

25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Monday, February 24, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
*All meetings are held in the City Hall Annex 13th floor
Conference room at 25 West 4th Street in Saint Paul*

1. Piram Trail DNR grant support letter – Mary Norton (Parks) 10 minutes
2. Grand Round North Regional Trail Master Plan – Liz Hixson and Dave Ronzani (Parks) 30 minutes
3. Point Douglas Trail Master Plan – Brett Hussong (Parks) 30 minutes
4. Public Works 5-Year Capital Plan – Anne Weber (Public Works) 20 minutes

Upcoming Transportation Committee Meetings

- March 9
- March 23
- April 6

Meetings are open to the public. The Chair may allow five minutes for informal public comment (from non-committee members) at the beginning of each agenda as needed. Additional time may be allocated for comments or further discussion at the discretion of the Chair. Meetings will be cancelled if there is not a quorum expected, or if there are no agenda items. For additional information on the Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission, please visit our website at bit.ly/StPaulTC or contact Bill Dermody at Bill.Dermody@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-266-6617.

Transportation Committee Staff Report for Projects

Committee date: 2/24/2020

Project Name: Robert Piram Regional Trail

Geographic Scope: Regional Trail connection from Harriet Island to South Saint Paul, project is currently under construction.

Project Contact: Mary Norton

Project Webpage: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/robert-piram-regional-trail>

Project Description: Update is regarding a grant application to the DNR for funding of four trailheads located along Plato Blvd. and E. Lafayette frontage road in Saint Paul. The four trailheads were a bid alternate that was not awarded with the current contract under construction.

Project Stage & General Timeline: Trail is currently under construction, scheduled for completion end of September, 2020. Completion of the trailheads as part of this update are pending additional funds.

Public Hearing Date & Location: N/A

Cost & Primary Funding Source(s): \$160,000 estimated construction cost. Application for \$150,000 grant from MnDNR through the Federal Recreational Trail Program 2020

Transportation Committee Role:

- ☐ Inform project scope & approach ☐ Inform design ☐ Inform implementation
☒ Make recommendation

Explanation: Asking for a Transportation Committee letter of support for a DNR grant. These trailheads were a bid alternate for the City of Saint Paul that was not awarded as part of the current construction project. They are an important part of the system and will provide rest and interpretation opportunities to connect with place along the trail. We are currently applying for a grant with the MnDNR to seek funding to have these trailheads constructed within a year of completion of the trail project.

Attachments include:

Two overview documents and a draft support letter

Staff recommendation	<i>The trailheads will be a valuable part of the Robert Piram Regional Trail and as such we would like the committee to endorse the grant application with a letter of support</i>
Action item requested of the Committee	<i>Provide a letter of support for Grant Application to Project Manager by Thursday, February 27th</i>

Committee recommendation	<i>To be filled in at the meeting</i>
Committee vote	<i>To be filled in at the meeting</i>

connecting
HARRIET ISLAND
to
SOUTH ST. PAUL
THE ROBERT
PIRAM REGIONAL
TRAIL

- TRAILHEADS
- 1 Harriet Island Node
 - 2 Water Street Node
 - 3 Wabasha Street Node
 - 4 Lafayette Node



TRAIL ALIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Graphics of general trail location and features are for illustration purposes only.

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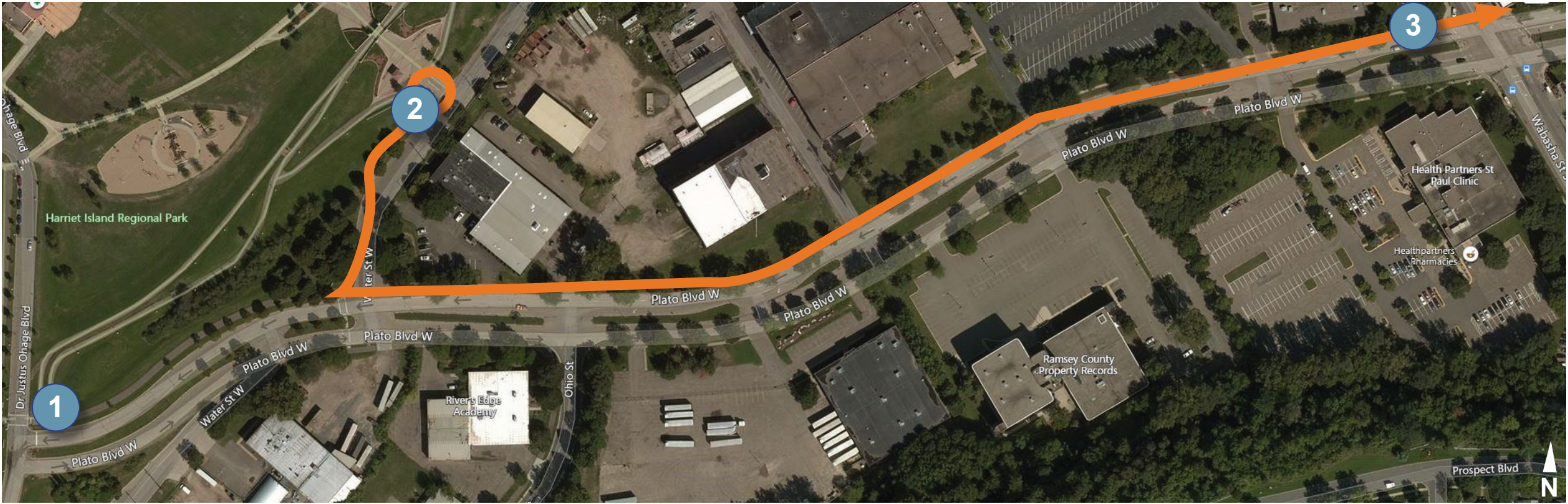
TRAILHEADS

- 1 Harriet Island Node
- 2 Water Street Node
- 3 Wabasha Street Node
- 4 Lafayette Node



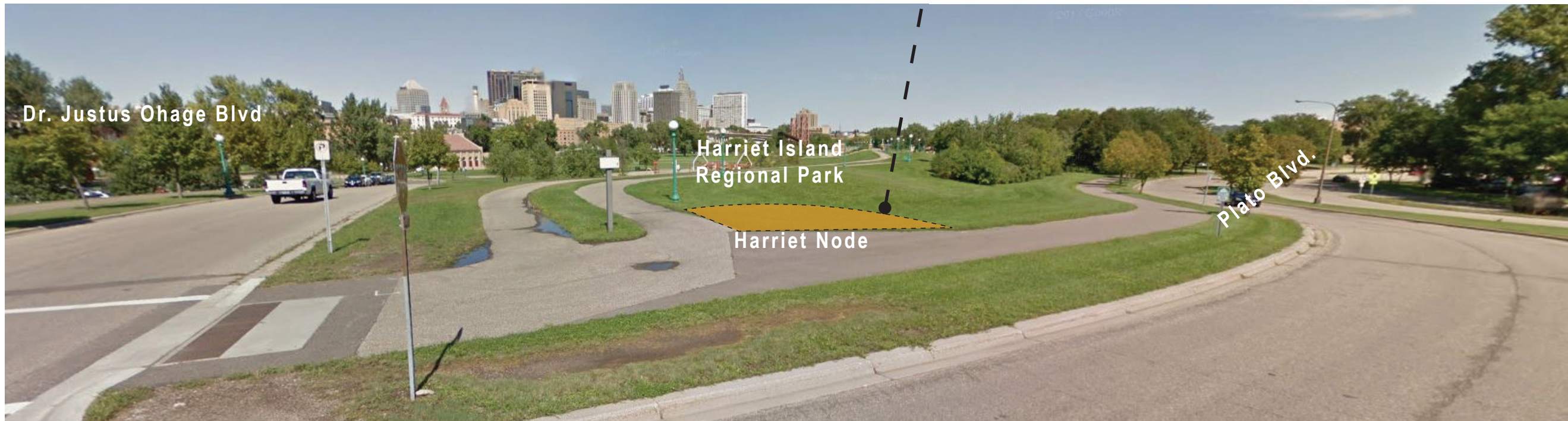
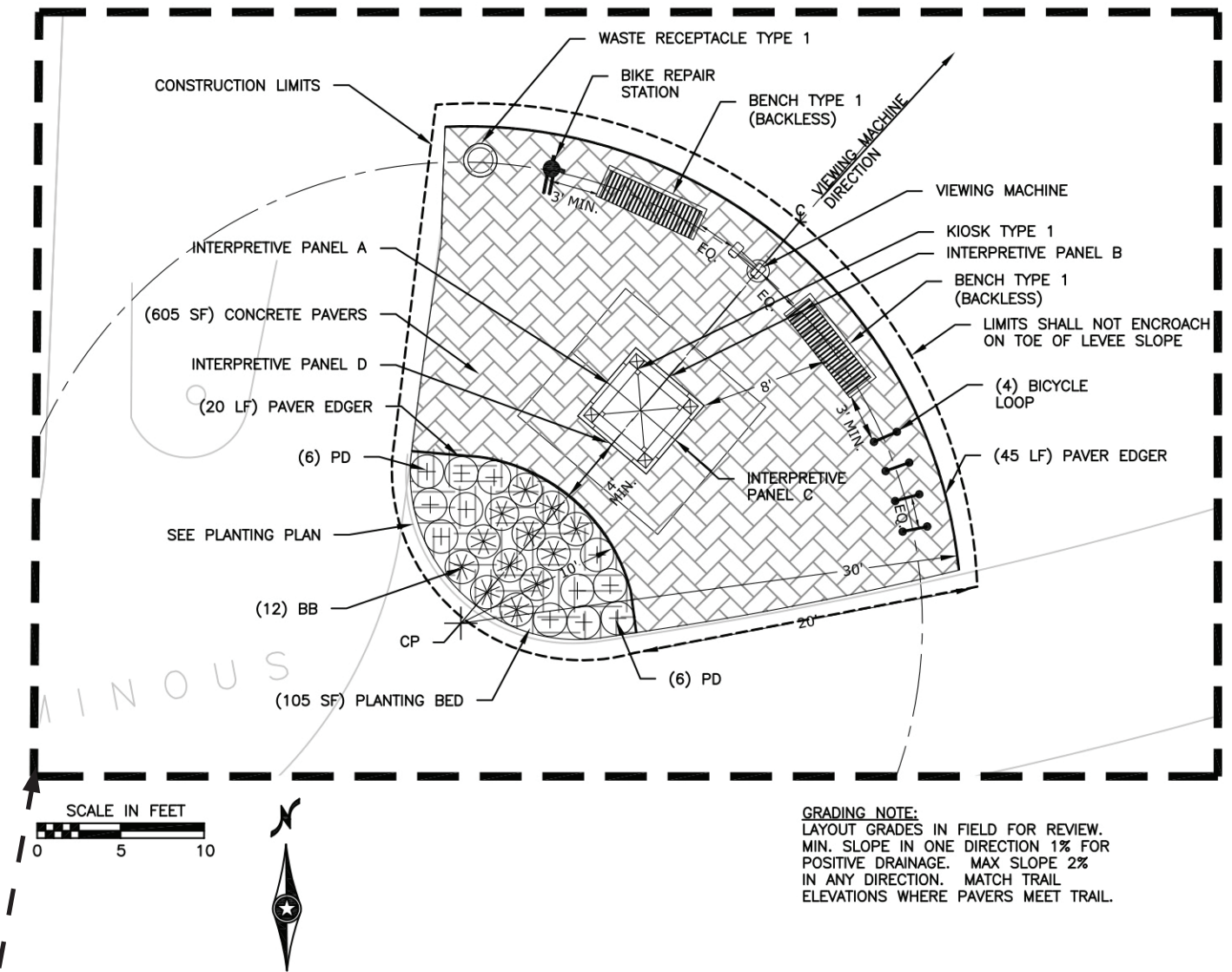
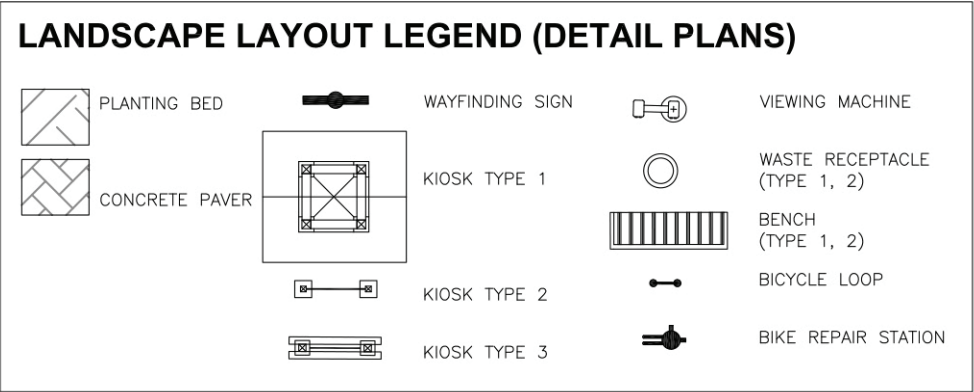
ALIGNMENT & TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS

SAINT PAUL



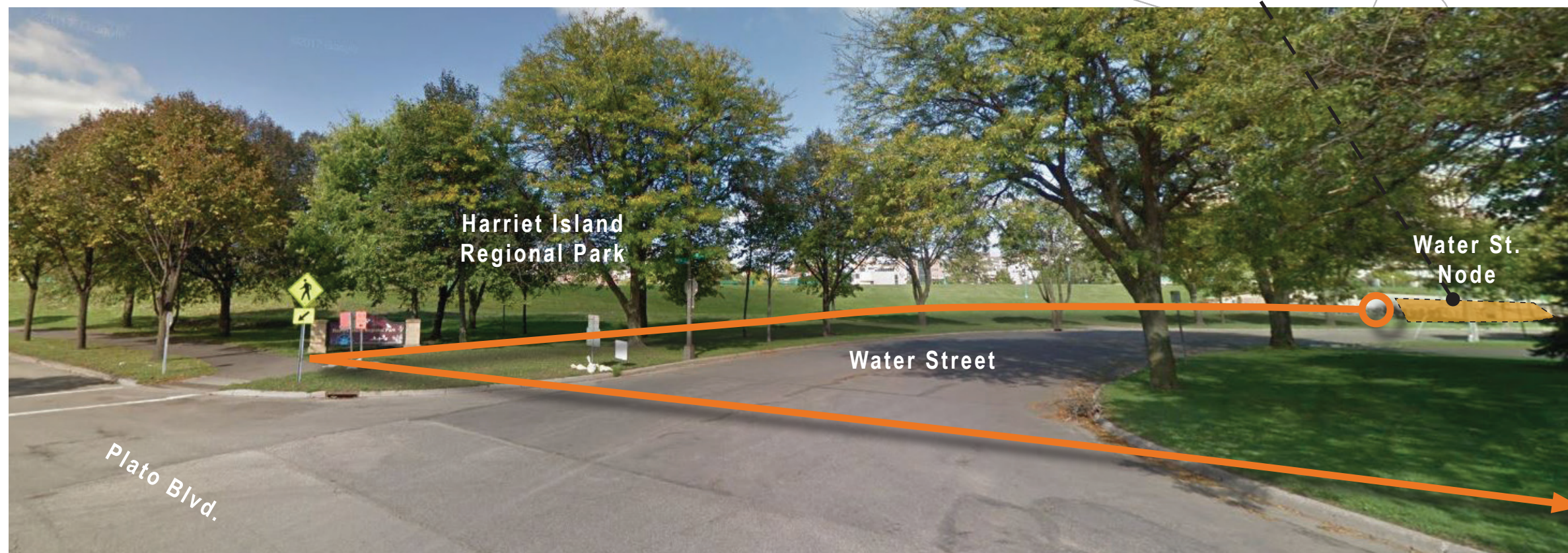
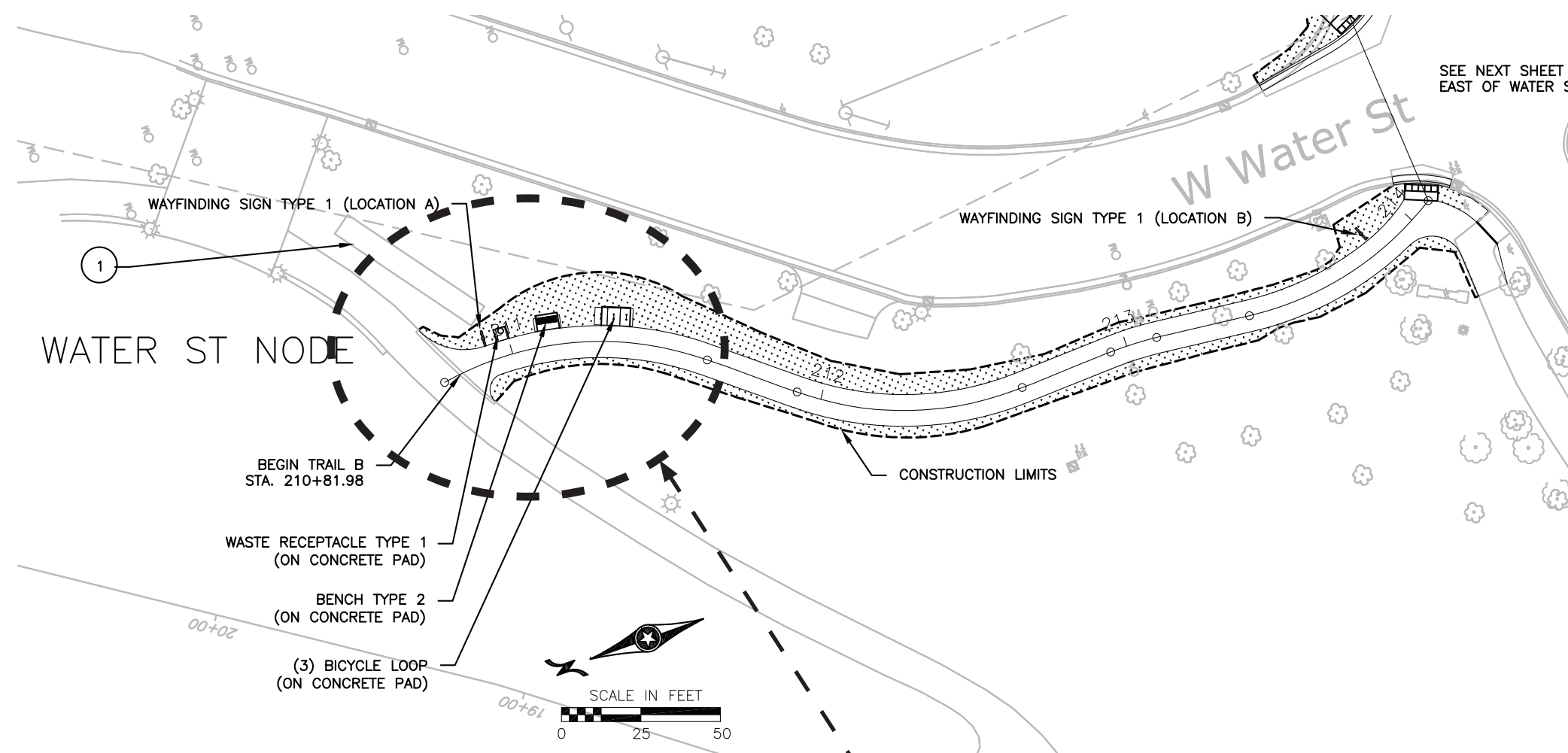
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1 Harriet Node



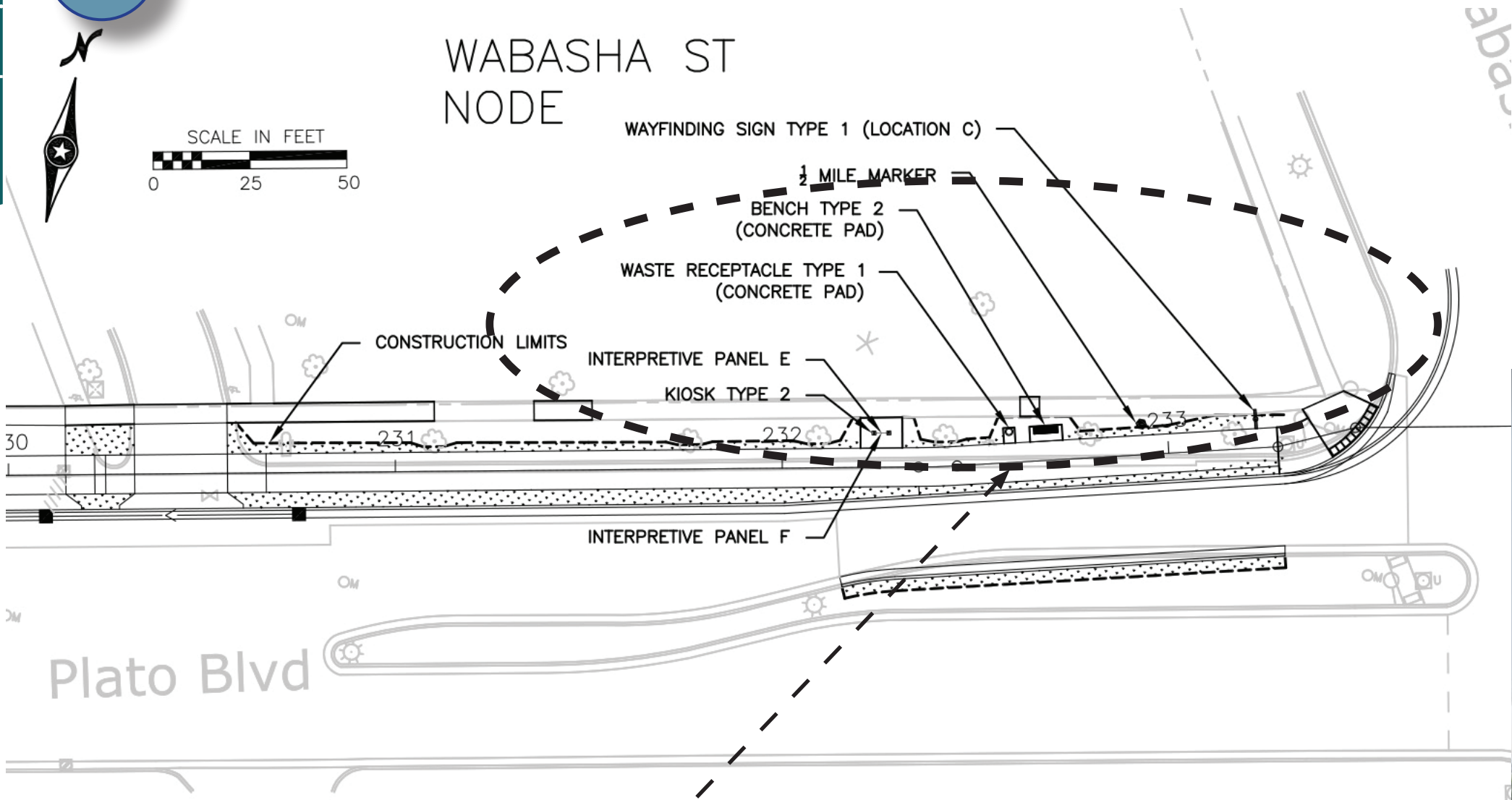
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Water Street Node

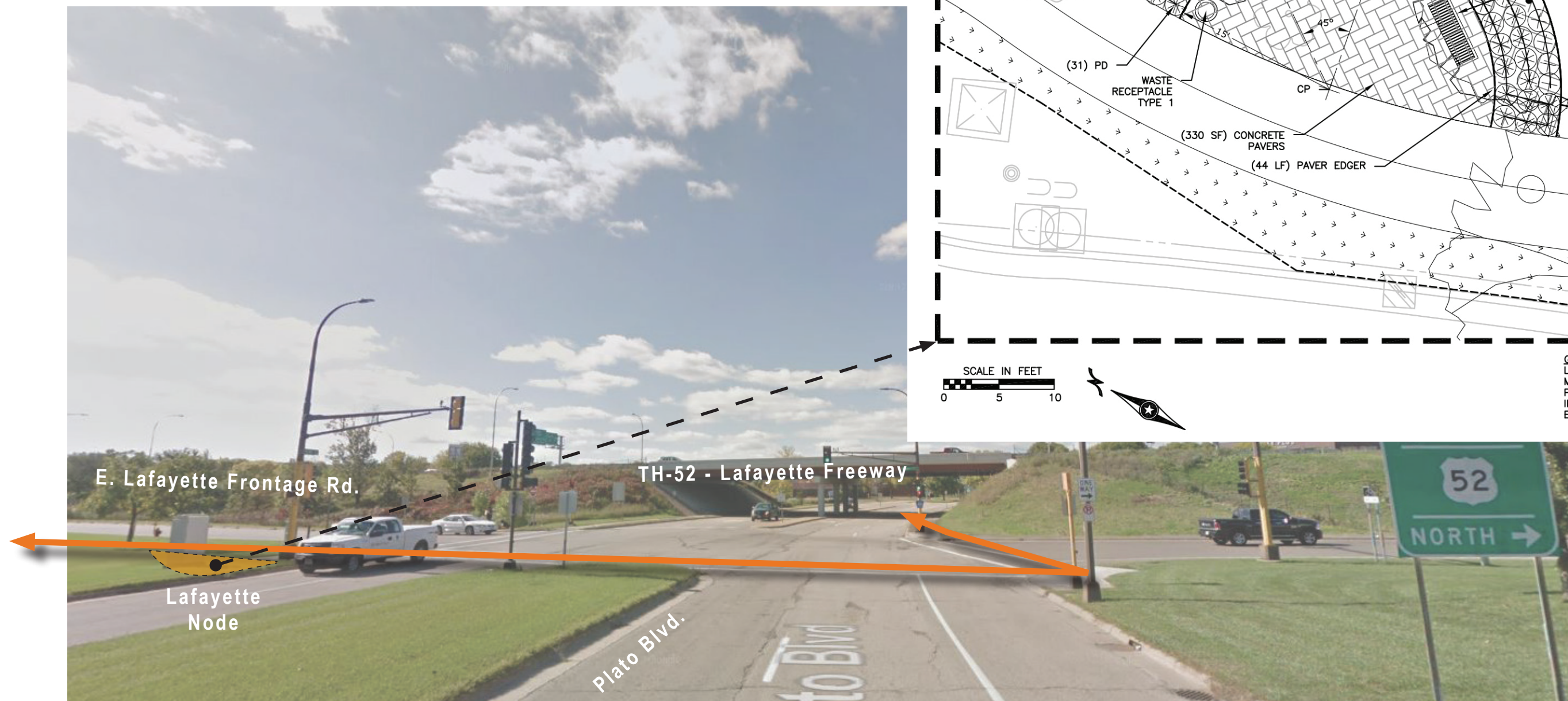
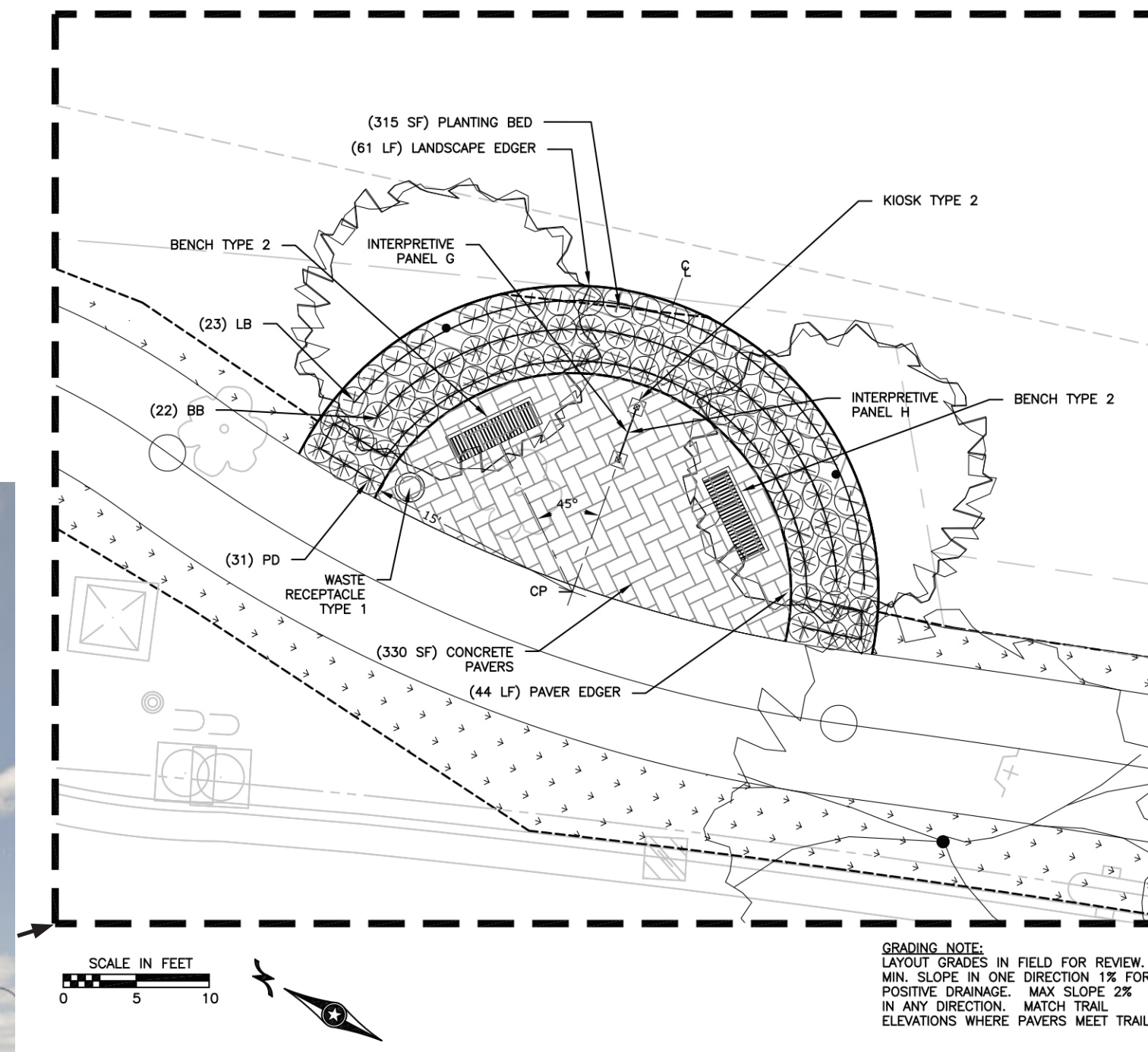
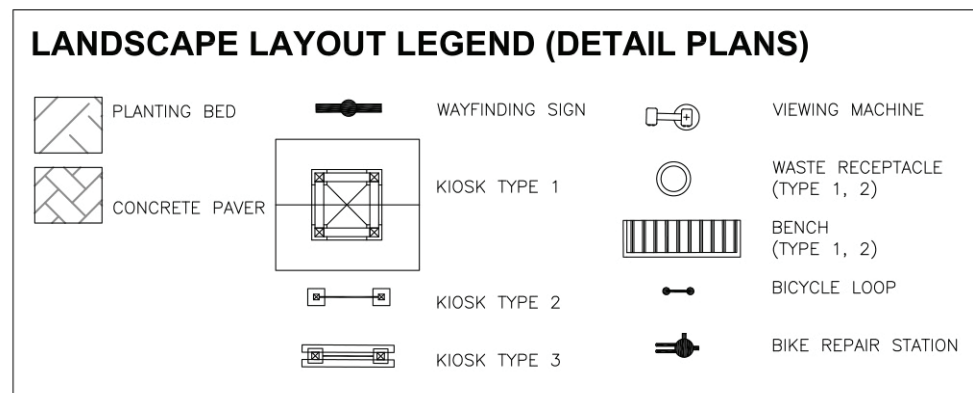


3

Wabasha St. Node



4 Lafayette Node



connecting

HARRIET ISLAND

to

SOUTH ST. PAUL

THE ROBERT PIRAM REGIONAL TRAIL

PROJECT OVERVIEW

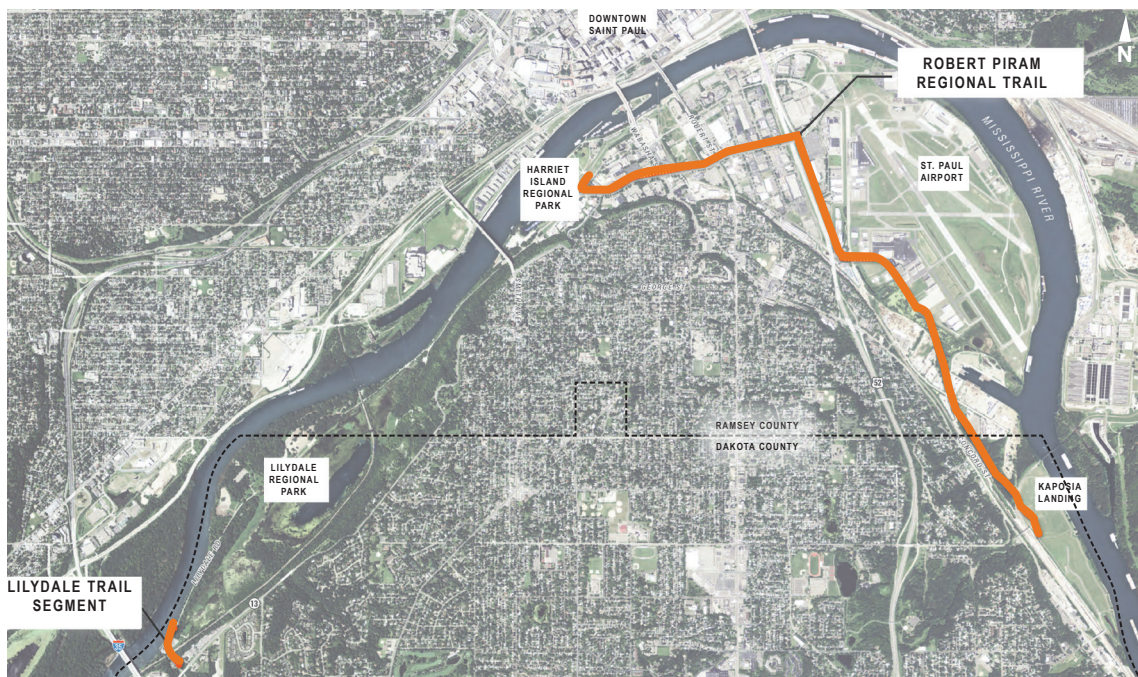
Saint Paul and Dakota County have teamed up to plan for the creation of a new bicycle and pedestrian trail that will fill several important gaps in the region's trail system.

The new trail segment will connect the Harriet Island Regional Park and its trail system to Kaposia Landing Park in South St. Paul. The project will also make improvements to the connection between the Lilydale Park trail and the Big Rivers Trail in Dakota County.

The completed trail is expected to become part of the Mississippi River Trail, a multi-state bike trail that begins at the Mississippi River's headwaters at Itasca State Park and extends, adjacent to the river, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

TRAIL ALIGNMENT + FEATURES

- Grade-separated, 10' wide multi-purpose trail, approx. 3.7 miles in length.
- Structures include pedestrian overpass bridge in South Saint Paul and two boardwalk bridges in Saint Paul.



FUNDING AND PROJECT TIMELINE



- Estimated Construction Cost: \$8.3-8.6M

- Funding Sources Include:
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation Grant, Legacy Funds, National Park Service, Metropolitan Council, Dakota County and Ramsey County

2012-2018

- Planning + Development

- Preliminary + Final Design

2019-2021

- Bidding and Contract Award

- Trail Construction



www.stpaul.gov/RobertPiramRegionalTrail



connecting

HARRIET ISLAND

to

SOUTH ST. PAUL

THE ROBERT PIRAM REGIONAL TRAIL

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Construction efforts began in September 2019 beginning in Lilydale with the build-out of Trail Segment A. While this is a small stretch of trail, this segment provides an important link in connecting the Big Rivers Regional Trail to Lilydale Regional Park.

The winter months have been busy building bridges! The pedestrian bridge bringing trail-users over railroad tracks and into Kaposia Landing Park is well underway. Two boardwalk bridges are being constructed while the ground is frozen in the wetland area between Holman Field and Southport.

When Spring arrives, crews will begin construction of the trail along Plato Blvd. in Saint Paul. Starting at Water Street, construction is anticipated to move east towards Highway 52 and the East Lafayette Frontage Road.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS PHOTOS



www.stpaul.gov/RobertPiramRegionalTrail

INSERT LETTERHEAD

(DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT LANGUAGE BELOW – PLEASE ADAPT AND MODIFY AS NEEDED)

February xx, 2020

Daniel Golner
Grants Specialist Coordinator – Parks and Trails
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Federal Recreational Trail Program 2020 Trail Grant Application

Dear Mr. Golner,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul Transportation Committee, I wish to convey our support of the grant application for the Federal Recreational Trail Program to develop a series of trailhead facilities on the Robert Pira Regional Trail. This trail will be providing an off-road, multi-use pedestrian connection that will close an important gap in the Regional Trail network.

Trailhead facilities provide bicyclists and walkers with an opportunity for rest, interpretation, and gathering and as such are important in creating a positive trail-use experience. These experiences help to encourage safety, convenience, and comfort throughout the trail corridor. The implementation of these trailheads will also provide consistency and a more seamless connection along the trail between Saint Paul and Dakota County as part of the larger Mississippi River Trail (MRT).

The Transportation Committee supports the development of stronger, accessible connections that can bring bicyclists, pedestrians, and neighborhood residents closer to the Mississippi River. Thank you for your review of the City's grant application to develop these stronger connections through trailheads along the Robert Pira Regional Trail.

Sincerely,