

# Shooting Star State Trail

*Creating a cross-border bike experience between Minnesota and Iowa*



-  **\$1.44 million**  
Estimate provided by Mower County
-  **Critical cross-border trail connection**
-  Local project partner:  
**Prairie Visions**
-  Management Agency:  
**Minnesota DNR**

## Brief Description:

Filling a 4-mile gap to connect the 29-mile Shooting Star State Trail to the 27-mile WAPSI-Great Western Line Trail in Iowa.

## Why this project is important:

This 4-mile trail connection would create an uninterrupted paved bike path for more than 60 miles by connecting two existing trails—Minnesota’s Shooting Star State Trail and Iowa’s WAPSI-Great Western Line Trail. The 29-mile Shooting Star State Trail is known for its abundant native prairie wildflowers and grasses, and it runs through the towns of Austin, Rose Creek, Adams, Taopi, and Le Roy. These communities and local businesses recognize the importance of this trail as an economic and tourism boost, drawing visitors from Minnesota and Iowa alike. This trail segment will support the annual “Border Bike” ride that features this cross-border trail network and will offer increased connection to local natural resources, such as Lake Louise State Park, Norwegian Hill, and Hormel Nature Center.

## This project is ready to go!

Mower County and the DNR will cooperate to complete this segment. While construction of the trail cannot begin until DNR completes requisite planning, Mower County Public Works has projected overall costs for acquisition and construction at \$2 million. If the project receives an appropriation in 2023, it would ensure project partners can move expeditiously to make this cross-border connection. Reps. Mueller and Davids and Sen. Dornink have authored bills seeking project funding (HF 567 / SF 451).

## Who supports this project:



Sen. Gene Dornink



Rep. Patricia Mueller



Rep. Greg Davids

- Mower County
- City of LeRoy
- Friends of the Shooting Star Trail
- WAPSI- Great Western Line Trail
- Prairie Visions
- Parks & Trails Council of MN