



Request for Proposals (RFP)

Interurban Trail Route Study – Wayland and Wayland Township Segment

Issued by: West Michigan Trails (WMT)

Date Issued: April 6, 2026

Proposal Due Date: April 30, 2026

Implementation: Summer 2026

1. Introduction and Background

West Michigan Trails, a regional nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting, improving, and promoting the trail network across West Michigan, is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to conduct a Route Study and Preliminary Design for the Interurban Trail (River 2 River) trail segment through the City of Wayland and Wayland Township in Allegan County, Michigan. The Consumers Energy right-of-way is along the old Interurban Rail Corridor at the north end of the City at 42°40'51.8"N 85°38'55.2"W down to 42°35'39.9"N 85°38'11.8"W at the south end of the township.

The Interurban Trail is envisioned as a key north-south connector within the regional trail network, linking communities and destinations while expanding opportunities for recreation, mobility, and economic development. This project will evaluate potential trail alignments and engage the community in shaping a safe, accessible, and connected route that reflects local priorities and the regional vision for a world-class trail system.

A planning study was completed in 2018 for the entire 41 miles of the proposed trail. A copy of that plan is attached.

2. Project Overview

The goal of this study is to identify, evaluate, and recommend a preferred trail route for the Wayland/Wayland Township segment of the Interurban Trail, including opportunities for trailhead amenities, access points, and connections to existing and planned infrastructure.

The study area includes:

- The Consumers Energy utility corridor following the former rail line through Wayland and Wayland Township; and
- An alternative alignment extending Reno Drive south from the city limits into the Township.

The consultant will conduct a comparative analysis of these and potential hybrid alignments, taking into account right-of-way availability, topography, environmental features, safety, connectivity, and public support.



3. Scope of Work: The goal of this project to have concept level alignment drawings necessary for TAP and other grant applications. The consultant will provide materials and an outline for community engagement. West Michigan Trails will conduct all community engagement with the consultant present at 2 public meetings to answer technical questions.

The selected consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

A. Project Management and Coordination

- Attend project kick-off with West Michigan Trails, the City of Wayland, and Wayland Township representatives.
- Provide a detailed project schedule and communication plan.

B. Data Collection and Existing Conditions Analysis

- Review available GIS, property ownership, and utility data.
- Conduct field reconnaissance to document existing conditions, constraints, and opportunities.
- Identify key intersections, crossings, and connectivity points with local roads and parks.

C. Community Engagement

- Develop materials and community outreach plan for community engagement to be implemented by WMT, including:
 - Attend two public meetings (one in the City, one in the Township).
 - Engagement plan should include stakeholders and property owners along proposed corridors as well as government, schools, and business representatives.
- West Michigan Trails will document feedback and provide to the consultant so that the final route recommendation includes community input.

D. Route Alternatives and Evaluation

- Develop at least two route alternatives, including:
 1. A route primarily along the Consumers Energy corridor/old rail line.
 2. A route following or incorporating an extension of Reno Drive from the City limits southward.
 - Hybrid alignments may also be considered.
- Evaluate each alignment based on:
 - Feasibility and constructability
 - Property ownership and easement needs
 - Cost implications
 - Environmental and safety considerations
 - Community support and accessibility

E. Concept level alignment drawings

- Prepare a preferred route recommendation including:
 - Conceptual cost estimate
 - Recommendations for trailheads, crossings, signage, and amenities
 - Phasing and funding considerations



- Work with WMT to produce a final report summarizing the process, findings, and recommendations.

4. Deliverables

- Project schedule and communication plan
- Route alternatives map and evaluation matrix
- Preferred route conceptual plan and cost estimate
- Final report (PDF and editable format)
- GIS shapefiles of proposed route

5. Proposal Requirements

Interested firms should submit proposals (not to exceed 8 pages) that include:

1. **Cover Letter** – Brief statement of interest and project understanding.
2. **Project Team** – Identify key personnel, qualifications, and relevant experience.
3. **Approach and Methodology** – Description of how the scope of work will be completed.
4. **Project Schedule** – Proposed timeline with milestones.
5. **Budget** – Detailed cost proposal by task, including labor hours and expenses.
6. **Relevant Experience** – Examples of similar projects (particularly trail planning and community engagement).
7. **References** – At least three (3) recent client references.

6. Proposal Submission

Proposals are due by 5pm on April 6 2026.

Submit proposals electronically in PDF format to: jennifer@wmtrails.org

Questions regarding this RFP may be directed to:

Jennifer Antel

Program Manager, West Michigan Trails

jennifer@wmtrails.org

7. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of project goals and local context
- Quality and creativity of proposed approach
- Experience with trail planning and public engagement
- Qualifications of project team
- Proposed schedule and budget

West Michigan Trails reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, or to negotiate with any proposer, as deemed in the best interest of the organization.



8. Project Schedule (Tentative)

Milestone	Date
RFP issued	April 6, 2026
Deadline for questions	April 17, 2026
Proposals due	April 30, 2026
Consultant selection and notification	May 13, 2026
Project start	May 20, 2026
Draft report due	June 30, 2026
Final report due	July 30, 2026

9. Funding and Budget

This study is supported through a Rails to Trails grant. The project budget is anticipated not to exceed **\$10,000** inclusive of community input sessions as well as all consultant fees and expenses.