



Murray • Pipestone • Redwood • Rock

PO Box 57
Slayton MN 56172-0057

Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association 2016 Bonding Bill Request

The Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association are requesting \$1,250,000 for the continued development of the Casey Jones State Trail.

- \$900,000 – Develop and pave the next five miles of the existing rail bed from County Road 16 to Woodstock. All bridges have been installed and grading and an aggregate base project will be complete by Fall 2015 for the next three miles – project is now shovel ready and will connect two communities, Pipestone and Woodstock.
- \$45,000 - Preserve and enhance prairie grasses and the horse trail along the existing nine miles of trail from the trailhead in Pipestone to Woodstock. Remnant prairie grasses and wildflowers would be installed. Brome grass at the start of the trailhead in Pipestone would need to be killed in order to make this portion of the trail smoother for horse riders. A local restoration team would be hired to complete this phase with a three year maintenance agreement included in the cost to assure establishment of the plant communities.
- \$10,000 – Place an interpretive sign at the trailhead in Woodstock with graphics and detailed information/maps of the trail and plant and wildlife communities to be seen on the trail. Place an interpretive sign 4-6 miles east of Pipestone along the trail at the site “Gray Siding/Eton” (siding/small town) that was used by traveling farmers and teachers. The signs would be used to educate trail users of the history of the rail bed and surrounding areas.
- \$55,000 – Enhance the trailhead in Pipestone by installing an interpretive sign with graphics and detailed information/maps of the trail, placement of benches, a picnic table and landscaping.
- \$240,000 – Part of this would be used to for an engineering study along TH 30 between the Pipestone/Murray County Line to connect 1.5 miles outside Lake Wilson to fill the existing 2.5 mile gap. MnDOT has already given approval for DNR to do the study and once complete, bring to MnDOT for discussion. The remaining dollars would be used for future land acquisition.