MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Works Committee
FROM: Patsy Horton, Division Manager
DATE: September 16, 2019
RE: 19TP026– Authorize Mayor and Finance Officer to sign SD DOT Authorization Form designating Patsy Horton and Kip Harrington as Bidding Administrators for Rail Proposers

On August 26, 2019, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (Railroad Board Authority) issues an “Invitation for Proposals to Purchase State-owned Rail Lines” on August 26, 2019. This activity includes the railbanked railroad right-of-way (that portion of the railroad where the rails have been removed, thus no longer used for transporting goods and services) extending from Rapid City to Kadoka. This railbanked right-of-way is identified within RapidTrip 2040, the City’s adopted Long Range Transportation Plan as connections for both pedestrians and bicyclists within Rapid City and the Rapid City Airport.

Since 2009, staff has applied for Transportation Alternatives Program grants in order to connect the existing bike path/ shared use path to the Airport, a need identified by the public for over fifteen years. The TAP grant award received in 2011 will extend a shared use path north from Rapid Creek along Campbell Street connecting to Omaha Street. Once authorized to submit a proposal as requested, numerous staff members will begin developing a proposal for submission to the State, including funding sources for construction in order to continue providing alternative transportation modes for the citizens of Rapid City.

For your convenience, the railbanked right-of-way map is attached as well as excerpts from RapidTrip 2040.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends authorizing Mayor and Finance Officer to sign SD DOT Authorization Form designating Patsy Horton and Kip Harrington as Bidding Administrators for Rail Proposers.