



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** August 31, 2015

**MEMO TO:** Carol Calabresa, Chair  
Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee

Bonnie Thompson Carter, Chair  
Planning and Restoration Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair  
Finance and Administrative Committee

**FROM:** Randall L. Seebach,  
Director of Planning and Land Preservation

**SUBJECT:** IDOT-Route 173 Road Improvements at Sequoit Creek, Raven Glen, Ethel's Woods, Pine Dunes and Van Patten Woods Forest Preserves

**REQUEST:** Provide policy direction regarding a request from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to consider possible permanent and temporary easements and right-of-way dedication for road improvements and a shared-use path along Illinois Route 173, to authorize execution of a Letter of Intent between IDOT and the District, and to negotiate an Intergovernmental Agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 2012, IDOT has been in regular contact with the District regarding proposed improvements to Route 173, a planned shared-use path between Illinois Route 59 and U.S. Route 41, and the potential grants of easement and dedication of right-of-way necessary to complete these improvements. The District has participated in IDOT's planning process as a member of IDOT's Community Advisory Group.

As part of these planned improvements, IDOT will construct a shared-use path through the Route 173 corridor including a 1.6-mile section of the planned Millennium Trail between Ethel's Woods and Pine Dunes Forest Preserves. As with most of IDOT's federally-funded projects, a local sponsor is needed to fund a 20 percent local share of construction costs and to provide long-term maintenance of the shared-use path. Staff is seeking direction from the Committee regarding (i) the District's potential participation as a local sponsor and (ii) which sections of the proposed path should receive District sponsorship.

In accordance with District Policy, authorization is needed from the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee and the Finance and Administrative Committee for the District to enter into negotiations with IDOT regarding a possible grant of easement and/or transfer of fee-simple interest of portions of District property needed by IDOT for the project. Staff is seeking authorization to sign a Letter of Intent and to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with IDOT regarding these potential easements and transfers.

The final terms of the potential easements and transfers will be placed on a future agenda as part of the review and approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Policy Direction is required in accordance with District policy.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Executive Director, Director of Finance, Chief Operations Officer and Legal Counsel.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** At this time there is no financial impact.

**PRESENTER:** Randall Seebach