



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

www.LCFPD.org

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 30, 2015

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

Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair
Planning and Restoration Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance and Administrative Committee

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

SUBJECT: IDOT – U.S. Highway 45/Millburn Bypass Improvements

REQUEST: Provide policy direction authorizing negotiation between the District and the Illinois Department of Transportation to consider fee simple transfer of District property and temporary easements for road improvements and a shared-use path along U.S. Route 45 at McDonald Woods Forest Preserve, and to authorize negotiation of an intergovernmental agreement between IDOT and the District.

BACKGROUND: The Lake County Division of Transportation, in coordination with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), initiated a Phase I Engineering and Environmental Study in 2009 to evaluate likely long term improvement needs for U.S. Route 45 from Illinois Route 132 (Grand Avenue) to Illinois Route 173, with additional focus on the Grass Lake Road and Millburn Road intersections in the vicinity of McDonald Woods Forest Preserve. District staff has been in regular contact with IDOT regarding the proposed roadway improvements and the potential impacts to District property.

As part of the planned improvements, IDOT will construct a western bypass that will pass through the eastern portion of McDonald Woods Forest Preserve and include a 10-foot wide shared-use path on the west side and sidewalks on the east side. A portion of the proposed shared-use path will become an extension of the Millennium Trail from McDonald Woods north to Independence Boulevard (north of the Millburn Historic District). Future improvements to U.S. 45 will extend the Millennium Trail north to the District's planned underpass north of Miller Road. Improvements to Grass Lake Road include extending the shared-use path on the south side of the road, west to McDonald Woods Forest Preserve with a connection to the recently completed Grass Lake Road underpass.

As part of the proposed improvements, IDOT is requesting the purchase of District property for the roadway, shared-use path and stormwater detention. Staff is seeking approval to continue discussions with IDOT, and for authorization to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement.

REASON FOR REQUEST: District policy requires approval by relevant Standing Committees for negotiation of intergovernmental agreements.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Legal Counsel

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION(S) SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Leadership; Organizational Sustainability

PRESENTER: Randall L. Seebach