



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: June 6, 2016

MEMO TO: 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

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a request from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to consider providing the local cost share for a portion of the Millennium Trail along U.S. Route 45 as part of the Millburn Bypass project, and to authorize execution of a Letter of Intent between IDOT and the District.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Leadership

FINANCIAL DATA: By including the work now as part of IDOT's overall road improvement project, the District's local cost share for the bike path and pedestrian walk portion of the project will be 20% of the total engineering and construction costs, which is estimated at \$16,221.00. It is recommended that the local cost share could be funded through the easement fees collected from IDOT for this project.

BACKGROUND: The Lake County Division of Transportation, in coordination with IDOT, completed a Phase I Engineering and Environmental Study in 2009 to evaluate 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. The improvements being planned by IDOT include roadway improvements, a new shared use path, sidewalks and stormwater detention. District staff has been in regular contact with IDOT regarding the proposed roadway improvements and potential impacts to District property.

In November and December 2015, the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee, the Planning and Restoration Committee, and the Finance and Administrative Committee gave staff policy direction to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with IDOT pursuant to which the District would convey to IDOT either an easement or fee simple interest in District land for the improvements, if District concerns regarding potential impacts to McDonald Woods Forest Preserve are adequately addressed. As final engineering progresses, IDOT has identified potential cost sharing responsibilities for the District and other partners including the Village of Lindenhurst, the Village of Old Mill Creek and Lake Villa Township. The shared use path would be constructed on the west side of Route 45 and the south side of Grass Lake Road and the sidewalk would be constructed on the east side of Route 45 and the north side of Grass Lake Road. A portion (4,320 feet) of the Route 45 shared use path will be part of the Millennium Trail.

In April 2016, the Planning & Restoration and Finance & Administrative Committees provided staff with policy direction regarding the District's cost sharing responsibilities and directed staff to negotiate further with the partner agencies. As a result of those negotiations, it was recommended that the partner agencies

cost share by jurisdiction. Therefore, the District cost share responsibilities for both the shared use path and the sidewalk are limited to the McDonald Woods Forest Preserve frontage. IDOT is requesting the District to provide the 20% local share for the shared use path and the sidewalk adjacent McDonald Woods Forest Preserve, which 20% share is estimated at \$16,221. Staff is seeking policy direction from the Committees to (i) sign a letter of intent regarding the local cost share responsibilities for the shared use path and sidewalk improvements and long-term maintenance responsibilities, by the District, for only the portion of the proposed shared use path adjacent to McDonald Woods Forest Preserve and (ii) negotiate an agreement with IDOT pursuant to which the District would pay the local share, commit to such long-term maintenance and commit to such long-term maintenance.

REASON FOR REQUEST: Policy direction is required in accordance with District policy.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Direction, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel

PRESENTER: Randall L. Seebach