



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
www.LCFPD.org

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** June 24, 2019  
**MEMO TO:** John Wasik, Chair  
Planning Committee  
**FROM:** Randall L. Seebach  
Director of Planning and Land Preservation

**REQUEST:** Provide policy direction regarding the District's participation as a co-sponsor of Lake County Department of Transportation's Patriot Path and negotiation of the required easements through/across District property at Wilmot Woods Forest Preserve.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Public Access and Connections

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

**BACKGROUND:** The Lake County Division of Transportation is nearing the completion of the Phase I engineering study for the regional east/west bike path project referred to as the Patriot Path. The proposed path will stretch 5.5 miles along the Illinois Route 137 corridor connecting two regional trails, the Des Plaines River Trail and the Robert McClory Bike Path. The Patriot Path is an important part of Lake County's Non-Motorized 2040 Plan and has received overwhelming support from residents and stakeholders.

A common requirement for constructing a project of this complexity is land acquisition. LCDOT's Phase I Study has identified the need to acquire approximately 0.41 acres of permanent easement and approximately 0.28 acres of temporary easement from the District for the construction and maintenance of three short sections of the proposed path.

Also, staff recently received a letter from LCDOT (see attached) requesting the District's consideration to become a non-funding co-sponsor for this project. Participation as a co-sponsor will not require any financial or operational commitment from the District, but will help to facilitate and expedite the Phase I approval process through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA has jurisdiction, because LCDOT's project is receiving federal funding. Under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, federal agencies cannot use public parks and recreation areas for transportation purposes, unless it is determined, after a detailed review, that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to that use and the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from such a use. There is a simplified review process for projects that have only de minimis impacts on protected lands. Having the District serve as a non-funding co-sponsor indicates to the FHWA that the District is supportive of the project and the District is aware and supportive that the acquisition of District property is needed to implement the improvement and may help LCDOT avoid or minimize the delay resulting from the typical Section 4(f) review process. LCDOT will continue to follow the District's standard land acquisition process for the purchase of the easement.

Staff is seeking approval for the District to participate in the Patriot Path project as a co-sponsor and the authority to negotiate the terms of the easement with LCDOT which will require final approval of the corporate authorities of the District and the County at some point in the future.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Executive Director; Chief Operations Officer; Director of Finance; Corporate Counsel.



**Patriot Path (IL Route 137 Bike Path)  
Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study  
Section No. 15-00289-01-BT  
Lake County**

April 11, 2019

Mr. Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director  
Lake County Forest Preserve District  
1899 West Winchester Road  
Libertyville, IL 60048

Dear Mr. Kovach:

The Lake County Division of Transportation is nearing completion of a Phase I Study for a regional east/west bike path project named the Patriot Path. The proposed Patriot Path would ultimately connect the Des Plaines River Trail to the Robert McClory Bike Path – two regional north/south trails within Lake County. Beyond that, the Patriot Path will provide a non-motorized transportation alternative through central Lake County by connecting residents to employment centers, public transit (Metra and PACE) and regional recreation facilities.

Various agencies, including the Lake County Forest Preserve District (District), have considered an east/west bike path project of similar scope and location. The Patriot Path is an important piece of Lake County's Non-Motorized 2040 Plan and, based on input from our public outreach campaign, it has been received with overwhelming support from both residents and stakeholders. We believe the project has regional benefits, including connections to District properties, amenities and trails.

As you are aware, constructing a project of this nature typically requires the need for land acquisition; this project is no exception. Our Phase I Study has identified land acquisition on District property that is needed for the improvement (see Area 1A on the enclosed exhibit).

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April 11, 2019

We are asking that the District give consideration to become a co-sponsor for this project. The purpose of the request is to help facilitate and expedite the Phase I Study approval process, with the possibility that a de-minimums 4f process may not be required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This does not require any financial obligation, and we would still follow the standard land acquisition process you are accustomed to. Being a co-sponsor indicates to FHWA that the District is supportive of the project with the understanding that acquisitions of District property is needed to implement the improvement.

We appreciate your consideration of the Patriot Path project co-sponsorship. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Carrier at (847) 377-7448 or [KCarrier@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:KCarrier@lakecountyil.gov).

Sincerely,



Shane E. Schneider, P.E.  
Director of Transportation/County Engineer

cc: Kevin Carrier, P.E., LCDOT Director of Planning and Programming  
Chuck Gleason, LCDOT Project Manager

enclosure

**AREA 1A**

OWNER: LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE  
 PIN: 1109300119  
 TOTAL PARK OR FOREST PRESERVE SIZE: 245 ACRES (WILMOT WOODS F.P.)  
 PERMANENT EASEMENT SIZE: 0.31 ACRE  
 TEMPORARY EASEMENT SIZE: 0  
 NEED FOR EASEMENT: MULTI-USE PATH

**LEGEND**

- PHASE 1 ROW NEEDS
- EXISTING FENCE
- PUBLICALLY OWNED PROPERTY
- WETLANDS
- LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION

**SCALE IN FEET**

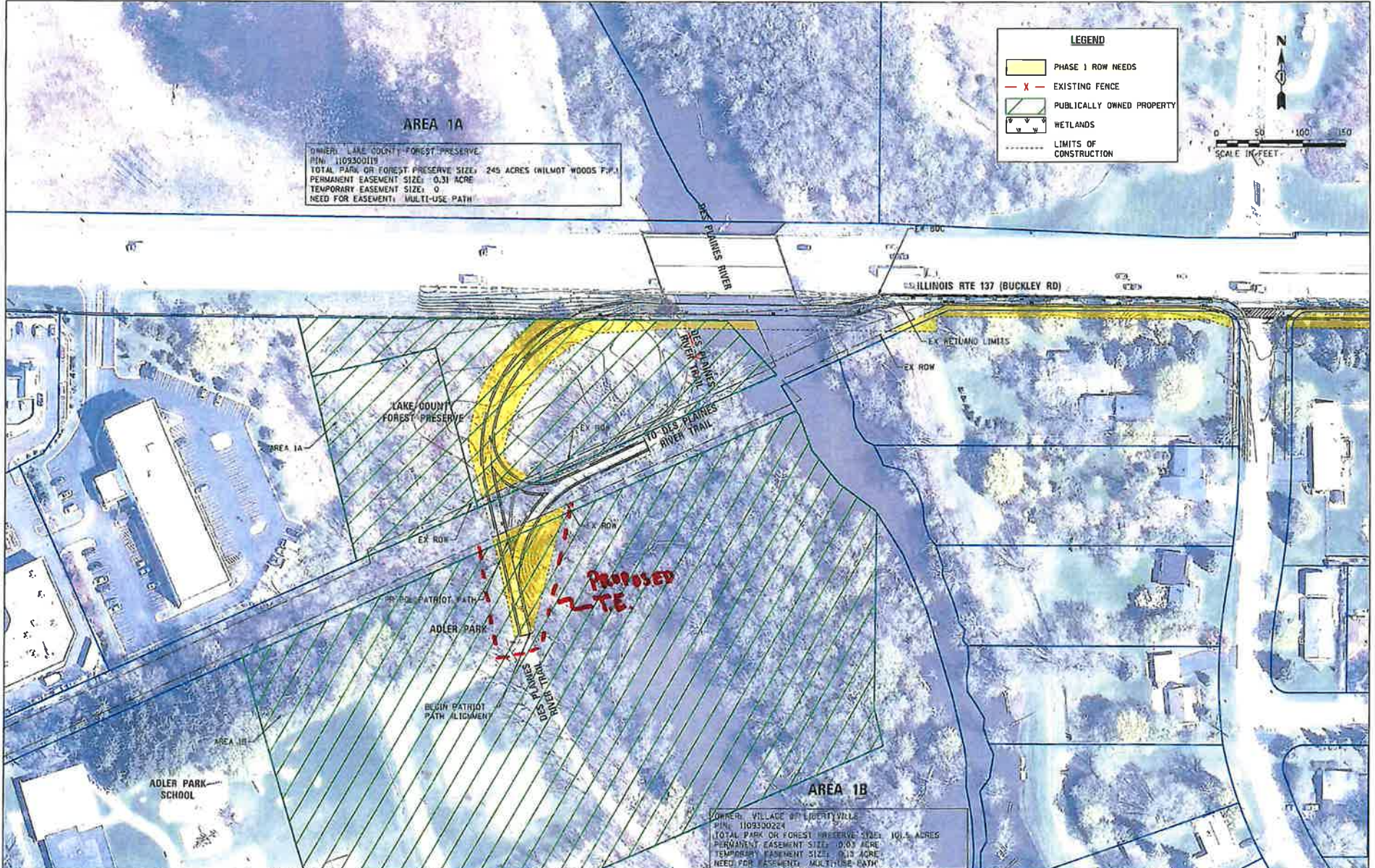
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PROJECT NO. 8000005  
 HIG. PROJ. CONTACT: 608-784-4444  
 PLOT DATE: 01/12/2018  
 PLOT SCALE: 1"=50'



OWNER: VILLAGE OF LIBERTYVILLE  
 PIN: 1109300224  
 TOTAL PARK OR FOREST PRESERVE SIZE: 104.4 ACRES  
 PERMANENT EASEMENT SIZE: 0.03 ACRE  
 TEMPORARY EASEMENT SIZE: 0.17 ACRE  
 NEED FOR EASEMENT: MULTI-USE PATH

	USER: <b>mlc</b> 1/12/2018 DESIGNED: <b>mlc</b> CHECKED: <b>mlc</b> DATE: <b>11/12/18</b>	REVISIONS: 1. <b>mlc</b> 11/12/18 2. <b>mlc</b> 11/12/18 3. <b>mlc</b> 11/12/18	<b>LAKE COUNTY</b> <b>DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES EXHIBIT - AREA 1A &amp; 1B</b> <b>PATRIOT PATH</b>	F.A.M. B.T.E.: 322 SECTION NO.: 15-00789-01-BT COUNTY: LAKE TOTAL SHEETS: 100 SHEET NO.: 2	CONTRACT NO.:
	SCALE: 1"=50'    SHEET NO. OF SHEETS: STA. TO STA.	FEEL ROAD DIST. NO.: 11/12/18/18				