



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: August 26, 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 Libertyville Township Road District's Oak Spring Road Bridge Replacement project at Wilmot Woods Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: In return for transferring fee simple property or permanent and temporary easements, with an estimated value of \$2,750.00, the District would receive a fully repaved entrance drive and parking lot, with an estimated value of \$25,000.00.

BACKGROUND: The Libertyville Township Road District (Road District) is nearing the completion of its Phase I Study for replacement of the Oak Spring Road bridge over the Des Plaines River. The Forest Preserve District owns property on both sides of Oak Spring Road in the vicinity of the bridge and the right-of-way. The proposed bridge abutments are expected to extend beyond the limits of the existing right-of-way.

The Road District's Phase I Study has identified the need to acquire approximately .012 acres of fee simple property from the Forest Preserve District for the use of the new bridge abutments and 0.43 acres of temporary easement from the Forest Preserve District for the construction of the new bridge abutments. The Road District has also requested use of the District's existing canoe launch parking lot for construction staging during the project. In return for use of the parking lot, the Township has offered to repave the entire entrance drive and parking lot upon completion of the project. This parking lot is nearing the end of its useful life and is on the District's list for re-surfacing within the next 5 years.

Staff recently received a letter from the Road District (see attached) requesting that the Forest Preserve District consider being a non-funding co-sponsor for this project. Participation as a co-sponsor will not require any financial or operational commitment from the District (other than its commitment to convey the required real estate rights), but will help to facilitate and expedite the Phase I approval through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA has jurisdiction, because the Township's project is receiving federal funding. 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 the Township avoid or minimize the delay resulting from the typical Section 4(f) review process.

Staff is seeking approval for the District to participate in the Oak Spring Road Bridge Replacement project as a co-sponsor and the authority to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with the Road District. If the Committee directs that negotiations proceed, then District staff would bring the negotiated intergovernmental agreement back to the Committee for its review and recommendation. The intergovernmental agreement would not become effective unless approved by the corporate authorities of the Forest Preserve District and the Road District.

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