



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
www.LCFPD.org

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.



LIBERTYVILLE TOWNSHIP

ROAD DISTRICT

MARTIN J. NEAL

Highway Commissioner

July 15, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Kovach:

The Libertyville Township Road District is nearing completion of a Phase I Study for replacement of the Oak Spring Road Bridge over the Des Plaines River. The Lake County Forest Preserve District owns property on both sides of Oak Spring Road in the vicinity of the bridge and the right-of-way width is limited. In fact, the existing bridge abutments extend beyond the limits of the existing right-of-way. As a result, we anticipate that permanent easements will be required to accommodate the removal and replacement of the bridge.

We are asking that the District give consideration to become a non-participating but supportive co-sponsor for this project. The purpose of this request is to help facilitate and expedite the Phase I Study approval process, with the possibility that a de-minimis 4F process may not be required by the Federal Highway Administration. 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 Lake County Forest Preserve District is supportive of the project with the understanding that acquisitions of Forest Preserve property is needed to implement the improvement.

We appreciate your consideration of the Oak Spring Road Bridge Replacement project co-sponsorship. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Strahan at (847)-821-6233 or dstrahan@gha-engineers.com.

Sincerely,
Libertyville Township Road District

Marty Neal
Highway Commissioner

