



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** December 2, 2019

**MEMO TO:** John Wasik, Chair  
Planning Committee

**FROM:** Randall L. Seebach  
Director of Planning and Land Preservation

**REQUEST:** Provide policy direction regarding the negotiation of an agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights and others for the Wilke Road trail connection at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve.

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

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

**BACKGROUND:** For several years, the District and the Village of Arlington Heights (the “Village”) have received numerous requests from residents south of Lake Cook Road to provide a trail connection to the existing trails at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve near Wilke Road. While there is an existing traffic light at the intersection of Wilke Road and Lake Cook Road, there are no pedestrian crosswalk improvements such as crosswalk pavement markings, sidewalk landings and pedestrian push buttons. Even though the intersection is not properly improved for pedestrians, residents have continued to unofficially use that location to access District trails. The District has consistently denied allowing a formal connection until the Village or the Cook County Department of Transportation provides adequate and safe pedestrian improvements through the Lake Cook Road right-of-way.

In October 2018 the District received a letter from the Village requesting the District’s support of a project to provide pedestrian crosswalk improvements at the intersection of Lake Cook Road and Wilke Road and the District’s attendance at a meeting to further discuss the project. In November 2018, the Planning Committee provided support for the trail connection and authorized staff to participate in further discussion with the Village. In January 2019, the District provided a letter to the Village supporting their efforts to receive funding assistance for the project (see attached). The Village was recently notified that the funding was approved through the Transportation Alternatives Program administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (the “State”).

That portion of the project completed on District property, i.e., the connecting trail, would be completed by a contractor engaged by the Village and/or the State. Staff is seeking direction from the Committee to engage in negotiations for an intergovernmental agreement, license agreement, construction contract, or other agreement that would allow that work to occur on District property, while providing the District with typical rights it has when it contracts for public works projects on its property, including (i) insurance and indemnification protections, (ii) contractual obligations that the project be completed in accordance with plans approved by the District, (iii) the District’s right to inspect the work, (iv) prevailing wage requirements, (v) completion and payment bond requirements. The agreement would be effective only if and when it is approved by the corporate authorities of both the District, the Village, the State, and/or the contractor.

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



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January 28, 2019

Mr. Michael L. Pagones, P.E.  
Village Engineer  
Village of Arlington Heights  
33 South Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

RE: Pedestrian Improvements to the intersection of Lake Cook Road and Wilke Road  
Support for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funding

Dear Mr. Pagones:

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (District) is pleased to support the Village of Arlington Heights' application for funding assistance through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ). We understand that the funding will be used to provide much needed pedestrian crosswalk improvements to the intersection of Lake Cook Road and Wilke Road and to construct approximately 550 lineal feet of new path on District property.

By providing the intersection improvements and a continuous path, pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to travel safely through the intersection to the existing trails at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve. The District fully supports the Village's proposed intersection and path improvements and has no objections to the path work occurring on District property. Once the path connection is complete, the District will assume maintenance responsibilities for the portion of the path located on District property.

These improvements will provide local residents with greatly expanded opportunities for alternative means of transportation and access to a wealth of natural and cultural resources within the forest preserve.

Thank you for your leadership on this important recreational opportunity.

Sincerely,

Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director

ATK/jlw

Cc: Adam Didech, Lake County Commissioner, District 20  
Briget Schwab, Village of Arlington Heights  
Randy Seebach, Lake County Forest Preserve District