



DATE: August 31, 2020

MEMO TO: John Wasik, Chair
Planning Committee

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

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding routing of the North Shore Gas main at Raven Glen Forest Preserve and to authorize negotiations for a permanent and temporary easements.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability.

FINANCIAL DATA: The District will be required to cover the cost to prepare a survey, plats and other documents for the easements.

BACKGROUND: Under Section 6 of the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has the "power to grant licenses, easements and rights-of-way for the construction, operation and maintenance upon, under or across any property of [the] District of facilities for water, sewage, telephone, telegraph, electric, gas or other public service...”

The Millennium Trail – Route 45 Underpass project, located just north of Miller Road at Raven Glen and Ethel’s Woods Forest Preserves, is scheduled to begin construction later in 2020. This project has received federal funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality – Transportation Alternatives (CMAQ-TAP) program and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2021. The District’s consulting engineer has determined that a high-pressure gas line on the west side of Route 45, owned by North Shore Gas Company, conflicts with the construction of the project because of the deep excavation required for construction of the underpass. North Shore Gas has indicated that it will move its gas line westward around the project excavation to assure system performance and ease of maintenance. The relocation will require a permanent easement on District property for North Shore Gas’s operation of, access to, and maintenance and replacement of the gas line within the new location and possibly a temporary easement on District property for construction purposes.

Staff is seeking approval to negotiate the granting of a permanent easement to North Shore Gas and any temporary easements if necessary, as set forth above.

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