



DATE: April 5, 2021

MEMO TO: Terry Wilke, Chair
Planning Committee

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

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a request from Grant Township Road District to grant 0.2 acres of permanent easement at Marl Flat Forest Preserve, required for the Fish Lake Road improvements and the installation and long term maintenance of a multi-use path.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections.

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

BACKGROUND: The Grant Township Road District (Road District) is nearing completion of a Phase I study for improvements to Fish Lake Road between Nippersink Road and IL Route 120. The improvements include minor road widening to provide a full 11-foot wide lane in both directions, drainage improvements, re-surfacing and construction of 0.7 miles of 8-foot wide multi-use path. The proposed path will link the Township's existing path along Molidor Road, Grant Township Center, Grant Township High School athletic fields and Big Hollow School to the Millennium Trail and Marl Flat Forest Preserve.

As part of the proposed improvements, and to avoid the removal of seven (7) high quality native trees, the Road District is requesting approximately 0.2 acres of permanent easement to construct and maintain the new section of the path. The Road District has agreed in principle to provide the construction and long term maintenance of this new section of path at no cost to the District; those obligations would be included in the document granting any easement to the Road District. In exchange for protection of the native trees and providing increased access to the Millennium Trail, staff is recommending waiving all fees associated with the easement, including the cost of preparing any necessary documents.

Staff recently received a letter from the Road District requesting a letter of support from the District to assist with the federal 4(f) environmental review process and design approval. As per federal requirements, the Road District cannot negotiate right-of-way acquisition until after design approval is received. The letter of support would state the District's support for the project and its acknowledgment that the project will have a de minimis impact on Marl Flat Forest Preserve.

Staff is seeking Committee approval to (i) continue discussion with the Road District, (ii) on behalf of the District, send a letter of support for the Road District's project, and (ii) to negotiate an easement agreement and any other necessary documentation with the Road District.

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

GRANT TOWNSHIP HWY. COMMISSIONER KIMBER KIESGEN

February 26, 2021

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

Attn: Mr. Randy Seebach

Dear Mr. Kovach:

The Grant Township Road District is nearing completion of a Phase I Study for improvements to Fish Lake Road between Nippersink Road and IL Rte 120. The Lake County Forest Preserve District owns property on both sides of Fish Lake Road within the project limits. We understand that the Forest Preserve District and the Village of Volo have agreed in principle to an Annexation Agreement which will result in portions of Fish Lake Road becoming dedicated Right of Way to the Village of Volo.

Outside of that future Village Right of Way, Grant Township intends to construct approximately 270 feet of 8-ft wide HMA multi-use path which will connect the existing Millennium Trail path within Marl Flats to the planned path along Fish Lake Road and ultimately to the existing path system along Molidor Road. It is the Road District's intent to secure a Temporary Easement for construction of the path connection and to continue to maintain that portion of the path in the future.

We are asking that the District to provide a letter of support for the project. The purpose of this request is to help document the required De-minimis Section 4(f) process. This does not require any financial obligation, and we would still follow the standard land acquisition process you are accustomed to. A letter of support 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.

Ultimately if the Forest Preserve will require an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the long term maintenance of the path, the Road District would be willing to do that.

We appreciate your consideration of the Fish Lake Improvement project support. If you have any questions, please contact the Road District's engineer for this project: Dan Brinkman of Gewalt Hamilton Associates at (847)-821-6222 or dbrinkman@gha-engineers.com.

Sincerely,
Grant Township Road District

Kimber Kiesgen
Highway Commissioner



Cc: Dan Brinkman – GHA
Carissa Smith – GHA

26535 MOLIDOR ROAD • INGLESIDE, IL 60041
(847) 546-ROAD • fax: (847) 546-7632
email: road5467@msn.com