



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581 | P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | www.lpsnrd.org

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 31, 2024

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator *WI*

Subject: Minutes for MoPac East – Lied Connector Subcommittee Meeting

On Wednesday, October 30th, 2024, at 6:01 p.m., the MoPac East – Lied Connector subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present: Ray Stevens-Chair, Melissa Baker, Luke Peterson, Anthony Schutz, John Yoakum, and Seth Hawkins. Directors Dave Landis and Bob Andersen were also present. LPSNRD staff in attendance were David Potter, Jodi Delozier, Eric Zach, and Will Inselman. Andrea Gebhart, Brianna Lock, and Ross Lawrence (JEO Consulting Group), Alex DeGarmo (Cass County Commissioner), and seven members of the public were in attendance.

First on the agenda was the consideration of a final route for the MoPac East Connector Trail. Staff began by introducing a letter of support that was provided to the NRD from Martin Marietta, supporting the efforts of the NRD and Nebraska Trails Foundation on the MoPac Trail. They believe the project will be valuable to the local community and will support local businesses. Martin Marietta is the main provider of trail surface material for our current trails. Martin Marietta requested that they be kept in the loop as the project moves along so that they may see how they can contribute to the trail effort. Staff then asked if there were any questions on the trail evaluation final report or the public comment summary. Initial questions were asked on the feasibility of the trail crossing back and forth along its route to avoid driveway impacts. Staff and JEO indicated that those areas have been noted where it may be possible, but we would need to get into the engineering and design phase to determine what would be feasible and safe.

Next, the Directors shifted the conversation to the funding deficit that is present considering that the estimate for alignment D was \$15.5 million and we only have \$8.3 million currently from the State. The Directors stated that there was a concern about how the difference would be handled and expressed concern about property tax dollar use. It was noted by Alex DeGarmo that there have been conversations with trail groups, private donors, and businesses to help make up the difference. He also noted that there is a roughly 40% contingency built into the estimate so it is likely the cost of the project will not be as high as estimated.

There was also concern expressed by a Director regarding the speed of the process indicating that we need to hammer out more details and specifics on the route before a decision should be made on where the route goes. It was also concerning that if we do decide to change sides of the road the route is on now, those residents living on the other side may not be aware that was an option, and staff should address those residents being impacted. Staff indicated that we will know more during the engineering phase of the projects and those details

will be figured out then. At this point, we are only approving a route and not specifics on the exact location of the trail within the right-of-way.

It was moved by Yoakum, seconded by Baker, and approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve Alignment "D" as the final route selected for the placement of the connecting trail between the MoPac East Trail and the Lied-Platte River Bridge.

Motion Passed: 5-1 (Hawkins voting NO)

Second, on the agenda was the consideration of an interlocal agreement with Cass County for the authority to construct the connector trail within Cass County's right-of-way. Staff provided a brief overview of the document and what would be expected of each party. The end product would result in an easement from Cass County for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the connector trail. There was concern expressed by a Director that there was not enough notice to the subcommittee or the public on the document that was sent to the subcommittee the morning of the meeting. They felt that the public did not have enough time to review the document and have a chance to comment in the public hearing. Staff did apologize for the late notice of the agreement but also made clear that the agreement did not pertain to the nature of the public hearing. It was also mentioned that the public will still have an opportunity to provide comments on these items at the November 20th NRD Board meeting.

It was moved by Baker, seconded by Yoakum, and approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign an interlocal agreement with Cass County to grant the Lower Platte South NRD the authority to construct, operate, and maintain a trail within Cass County right-of-way on Alignment "D".

Motion Passed: 5-1 (Hawkins voting NO)

Lastly, staff provided an updated timeline on the next steps for approval of the final trail route. The Cass County Commissioners will consider these items at their November 5th Board meeting and the NRD will vote on Alignment D as the final route at the November 20th Board meeting. After approvals from both parties, staff will begin the process of hiring an engineering firm to carry out the design phase of the project.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

PC: MoPac East – Lied Connector subcommittee file