



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7, 2025

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 Monday, October 6th, 2025, at 6:03 p.m., the MoPac East – Lied Connector subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present: Luke Peterson-Chair, Melissa Baker, John Yoakum, Anthony Schutz, Deborah Eagan, and Tom Green. Director Bob Andersen was also present. LPSNRD staff were David Potter, Eric Zach, and Will Inselman. Other invited attendees were Andrea Gebhart (JEO Consulting Group), Jim Swenson (NE Game and Parks), Jeff Fields (NE Game and Parks), and Matthew Schaefer (Mueller Robak, LLC). There were two members of the public in attendance.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of the development of the existing LPSNRD-owned 2.25-mile stretch of undeveloped railroad corridor. LPSNRD staff requested approval to proceed with the development of the MoPac East Trail east of the Wabash trailhead. Currently, the District owns 2.25 miles of undeveloped railroad corridor east of Wabash. District staff see value in finishing this section of the trail as conversations continue with private landowners, state, and federal partners. This provides additional recreational opportunities for our constituents and still leaves options for the trail to proceed north once a possible route is determined. Staff believed there would also be value in showing our State legislators that we are using the funds and making progress on the connection, to avoid losing more funds with looming State budget concerns. District staff would solicit bids from contractors to clear trees adjacent to the trail and the trail surface. Staff would then work with JEO Consulting to modify our existing agreement so that they can begin design/engineering work on this stretch as soon as possible. **Director Yoakum made a motion to recommend that District staff proceed with the bidding process to clear trees on the existing unfinished stretch of the MoPac Trail railroad corridor owned by the District and direct JEO Consulting Group to continue with the design and engineering of this approximately 2.25-mile stretch of trail. The motion was seconded by Director Green and unanimously approved by the subcommittee.**

The second item on the agenda was the consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Recently, District staff began conversations with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to explore route options through Platte River State Park and/or Louisville State Recreation Area to facilitate a connection to the Lied-Platte River Bridge. Through this MOU, the Commission will allow LPSNRD and JEO Consulting to access the properties to evaluate the feasibility of a trail connection through the parks that may eventually connect with the Lied-Platte River Bridge. By approving this MOU, it would also provide the

necessary guidance to staff to begin having conversations with neighboring private landowners through the trail evaluation process. This MOU allows the District to explore trail options within these parks and gives the District flexibility when an appropriate route from Wabash is determined.

It was moved by Baker, seconded by Eagan, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to allow the District to evaluate the feasibility of a trail connection through Platte River State Park and/or Louisville State Recreation Area.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

PC: MoPac East – Lied Connector subcommittee file