



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: February 13, 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 Wednesday, February 12th, 2025, at 6:27 p.m., the MoPac East – Lied Connector subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present: Luke Peterson-Chair, Melissa Baker, Anthony Schutz, John Yoakum, Christine Lamberty, Deborah Eagan, and Seth Hawkins. Director Bob Andersen was also present. LPSNRD staff in attendance were Mike Sousek, David Potter, Eric Zach, and Will Inselman. Andrew Wilshusen from JEO Consulting was also present.

The single item on the agenda was the consideration of a Scope of Services Agreement with JEO Consulting Group for the design and engineering of the MoPac East Connector Trail. In December, LPSNRD staff advertised a Request for Qualifications seeking qualified consulting firms for their services to design and engineer the MoPac East Connector trail. Through that process, two consulting firms submitted RFQ applications; Benesch and JEO Consulting Group, Inc (JEO). After interviewing the two consulting firms, the staff identified JEO Consulting as the most qualified firm for this project. Their experience and familiarity with the project they gained through the evaluation study, ability to hit the ground running, and the relationships they developed with the local community and local leaders, make them the best fit for this project. Andrew from JEO spoke about their excitement to continue the project and JEO's commitment to seeing this trail completed. Staff recommended awarding the contract to JEO.

Staff and Andrew (JEO) fielded questions specific to the scope of work and questions regarding timeline, process and budget. There was concern from Director Hawkins that this agreement would put the NRD at a point of no return. Other Directors commented that we need to start somewhere and so this agreement is a necessary step to building the trail. Staff also reminded the Directors that the agreement is based on a time and materials basis, and that the contract amount is intended to cover any foreseeable obstacles or challenges require more observation. When JEO finishes the concept design later this summer, staff will have a better grasp of the trajectory of the project and expenditures for the project. Staff referred to the memo provided by JEO for the justification of the scoping cost (attached).

It was moved by Yoakum, seconded by Schutz, and approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign the Scope of Services Agreement with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for \$1,979,515.00 for the design and engineering of the MoPac East Connector Trail.

Motion Passed: 6-1 (Hawkins voting NO)

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

PC: MoPac East – Lied Connector subcommittee file