




LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: March 13, 2023
To: Each Director
From: Paul Zillig, General Manager 
Subject: MoPac-Lied Connector Subcommittee

The MoPac-Lied Connector Subcommittee met on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the NRD Office. Subcommittee members participating included Ray Stevens, Melissa Baker, Tom Green, Christine Lamberty, Luke Peterson, Anthony Schutz, and John Yoakum. Others attending included Doug Dittman, Marsha Babcock, Jesse Poore, Marie Gregoire - all MoPac Alliance participants, Parker Robinson, Dave Potter, Ari Kennedy, Will Inselman and myself.

Chair Stevens called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance. The first item on the agenda was a review of the status and historical timeline. Provided was the current status (see below).

MoPac Trail users currently can use an interim trail route via County roads from the Lied Platte River Bridge Trailhead near South Bend and the MoPac East Trailhead at Wabash. The Interim route is marked and primarily uses 334th Street.

- There is no approved plan to construct a new trail connecting the Lied Platte River Bridge and the MoPac.
- The MoPac Alliance has been discussing options with local residents, trail users, and County Commissioners to find a safer, acceptable route.
- There is support to utilize existing public right-of-way.
- The Legislature has approved \$8.3M in funding for a trail connection.
- The NRD has budgeted \$50,000 this Fiscal Year to hire an engineering firm to evaluate a proposed route.
- The NRD will have future discussions with the MoPac Alliance and Cass County Commissioners to identify an acceptable connector trail option and the evaluation of a route.
- No route has been selected at this time for evaluation.

I then reviewed the attached map of the current Interim Route & other routes, and historical timeline beginning with the acquisition of the MoPac corridor in 1991, trail construction completed in 2000, Lied Bridge construction completed in 2002, the efforts to determine a connector trail between the MoPac and Lied Platte River Bridge, the Legislative obligation of \$8.3M for the project, and Senator Clement's tour of the 322nd Street route (attached). There was good discussion on these efforts and input from the public on many of the local discussions concerning a connector trail.

The Subcommittee then reviewed the attached MoPac Alliance Support Letter from the 2022 Cass County Commissioners, there are now 3 new Commissioners (5 total). The Subcommittee then reviewed the attached MoPac Alliance Leadership letter that Poore stated suggested the 322nd County Road corridor be considered.

Youkum felt we should next meet with Cass County Commissioners and the MoPac Alliance to discuss how we can utilize the existing public right-of-way and determine if any additional right-of-way would be needed.

Peterson stated he has concerns about safety and we need to provide a safe connector trail. Gregoire reviewed their summary of the possible routes and stated that there will be landowner opposition. The desire is to only utilize public right-of-way and if that's not possible and additional right-of-way is required to look into that option.

Stevens reported that the Subcommittee desires to meet with some Cass County Commissioners and the MoPac Alliance to discuss alternatives and next steps.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

PDZ/pz

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pc: Corey Wasserburger
Steve Seglin