



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: May 22, 2023

To: MoPac-Lied Connector Subcommittee Members

From: Paul Zillig, General Manager 

RE: MoPac – Lied Connector Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The MoPac-Lied Connector Subcommittee met at noon on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at the NRD Office in Lincoln. Subcommittee members present included Ray Stevens, Christine Lamberty, Melissa Baker, Tom Green, and John Yoakum. Others present included Cass County Commissioners Alex DeGarmo & John Winkler, MoPac Alliance representatives and associates Marie Gregoire, Marsha Babcock, Chuck Griffith, Dale Arp, Jessie Poore, & Gerry Oligmueller (NE Trails Foundation), NRD Staff members Mike Sousek, Dave Potter, Will Inselman, Ari Kennedy, Parker Robinson, and myself.

Chair Stevens opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees, introductions were made. The attached copy of the minutes of the previous MoPac-Lied Connector Subcommittee Meeting was reviewed and discussed. There was a review of the funding (\$8.3M) provided by the legislature in 2022 and the need to follow-up with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission clarifying the limitations or requirements of utilizing the specific funds for this project.

The discussion then focused on the existing public right-of-way and the likelihood that additional right-of-way would be needed. Winkler's view was that if the County didn't have adequate right-of-way that it would be the County's responsibility to obtain it. To know for sure there would need to be a further analysis of the potential routes, the selection of a specific route, and further design of that route before we would know of the need for additional right-of-way, construction cost estimates, or a definite construction timeline. Some discussion on potential routes to be analyzed occurred and the direction, at this point, that all routes need to be considered.

In moving forward, the following three items were identified for action.

1. NRD will contact NG&P to clarify fund requirements and drafting an NRD-NG&P agreement concerning the \$8.3M of State funding to be provided to the NRD for this project.
2. Cass County and the NRD will enter into an agreement concerning their partnership where the NRD will contract for an analysis of the potential routes, the County and NRD will need to agree to the route selection, the County will obtain any additional right-of-way, and the NRD would construct, operate & maintain the trail.
3. The NRD would prepare a draft scope of services and begin the process of obtaining professional services for the analysis of the potential routes, this would occur once the agreement with the County is approved.

There being no further business the tour adjourned from the NRD Office at 1:15 pm.

PDZ/pz

Encl. 1

cc: MoPac-Lied Connector Subcommittee Members
Attendees
NRD Chair Landis