



## 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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

# Undeveloped Section of the MoPac East Trail - Wabash



10/2/2025

LPSNRD Trail  
Land Rights NRD

Deed  
Parcels

Counties (Ipsnrd)

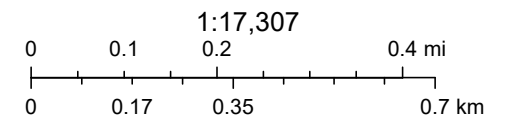
World Imagery

Low Resolution 15m Imagery

High Resolution 60cm Imagery

High Resolution 30cm Imagery

Citations



Eagleview, Maxar

Typical trail condition



Downed Trees



Box Culvert -approximately 12' x 10' – appears to be in good condition, 0.5 miles west of 334<sup>th</sup> St.



**Memorandum of Understanding between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the  
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District**

**MoPac Gap Connector Trail Project**

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission) and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (District) have come together for the shared goal to establish the MoPac Gap Connector Trail both in and adjacent to Platte River State Park and Louisville State Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the entities listed below have agreed to enter into an agreement in which the District will survey, plan, and design the MoPac Gap Connector Trail and the Commission will allow access to associated locations within Platte River State Park, and Louisville State Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the entities herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the activities to be permitted by the District and its assigns; and

**I) Description of Entities**

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
2200 N. 33<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370  
Outdoornebraska.org

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District  
3125 Portia St.  
Lincoln, NE 68521  
Lpsnrd.org

All properties mentioned in this MOU, are within Platte River State Park and Louisville State Recreation Area in Cass County, Nebraska as shown in Exhibit "A."

**II) History of Project**

The Commission, has been contacted by representatives of the DISTRICT to allow the survey, planning, and design of the MoPac Gap Connector Trail located in Cass County, Nebraska. Both Parties understand the importance of connecting the current gap in the MoPac East Trail, and the underlying history of this effort. Establishing this connection is a critical gap connecting Omaha and Lincoln, as well as filling a critical gap in the Great American Rail Trail, the nation's first cross-country trail.

**III) Roles and Responsibilities**

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the entities as follows:

1. The District will not be reimbursed for any labor, equipment, materials, services, or any other associated costs with surveying, planning, or designing the MoPac Gap Connector Trail.
2. The District will assume all liability of equipment, activity, or services utilized during surveying, planning, and designing of the MoPac Gap Connector Trail, and any personnel associated with the District activities holds Harmless the State of Nebraska and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.
3. At any time, the activities of the District or those working on behalf of the District become unsafe or damaging to the landscape, natural resources, or the public, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will remove them from the area.
4. The District will abide by all applicable federal, state, local, and Commission laws, rules, and regulations.
5. The District and its representatives, contractors, and any others accessing Platte River State Park or Louisville State Recreation Area shall notify the park superintendent of all such access at least three days in advance.
6. The Commission will allow access to all areas of Platte River State Park and Louisville State Recreation Area as shown in "Exhibit A."
7. The Commission will provide meeting space upon written request if available.
8. Commission personnel will participate in the surveying, planning, and design process when available and when invited by the District.
9. In the event a feasible route is identified, the Commission will work with the District in the construction and development of the segment of the MoPac Gap Connector Trail that falls within Platte River State Park and/or Louisville State Recreation Area.

#### **IV) Timeline**

This agreement begins on July 16, 2025. This agreement shall remain in place from the date this agreement until cancelled by either party in writing at least thirty days in advance.


We, the undersigned, have read and agreed to this MOU. Further, we have reviewed the proposed agreement and approve it.

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Potter, General Manager

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy McCoy, Director

Signed: 7-31, 2025

Lied Platte River Bridge to Louisville, Cass County

