

Agenda Item: 6 - Revised February 6, 2007

Memo to the Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee

Subject: Mopac Equestrian Trail – Re-bidding of Project

Date: February 6, 2007

By: Gerry Bowen

Management, with input from the Horse Council, has further evaluated the Mopac Equestrian Trail Project, the amount of work, and the bids and has arrived at a revised course of action to complete the project. It involves a combination of eliminating some project elements, performing some work (tree clearing) in-house, and contracting out the remainder of the work as follows:

1. NRD staff (Walnut Creek Lake), *with assistance from the Horse Council*, will perform the necessary clearing to create a separate pathway through the corridor, primarily the northern 1.5 miles. This would be accomplished using the District's skid loader and chain saws. Trees would be cut off at the ground surface and stumps chemically treated. Cleared trees will be placed along the corridor to form a natural barrier, and to provide habitat.
2. The existing bridge surface (metal grate) will be left as is on both bridges.
3. Fencing will be limited to the east side of the trail right-of-way immediately north of Buffalo Creek (contracted item). *This reduces the fencing amount from 9,225 feet to 2,825 feet.*
4. The trailhead parking lot will be installed (contracted item).
5. Only one of the pedestrian trail culverts (four were included in the original project) will be extended to accommodate the equestrian usage (contracted item).
6. *The approach railings to the Springfield and Buffalo Creek bridges will be installed (contracted item).*

The engineer's cost estimate (see attached) for this revised work plan is **\$41,369**. The funding sources would be as follows:

Game and Parks Commission	<b>\$29,095</b>
Mopac Horse Council	<b>6,137(Cash and in-kind)</b>
NRD	<b>6,137 (cash and in-kind)</b>
	<b>\$41,369</b>

It is proposed that bidding for the contracted items would occur during February with a recommendation regarding the bids presented at the March 8, 2007 Board meeting. The tree clearing work by NRD staff is proposed to begin the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>, and is expected to be completed prior to the March Board meeting.

**It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Mopac Equestrian Trail Project be modified as proposed and that competitive bids be sought on the amended project for consideration in March..**

**Engineers Opinion of Probable Improvement Costs**  
**Infrastructure Costs Associated with Development of**  
**Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District**  
**MoPac Horse Trail (Platte River to Springfield)**



EDC Proj. # 06-095

February 6, 2007

**ON-SITE IMPROVEMENTS**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
General Clearing (By NRD staff)	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Smooth Wire Fence Extension w/ posts	2,825	LF	\$1.80	\$5,085.00
Bridge Abutment Railing	112	LF	\$44.50	\$4,984.00
24" Corrugated Metal Pipe Culvert Extension	1	LS	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Synthetic Fabric Silt Fence Installation (at cmp)	100	LF	\$3.00	\$300.00
Synthetic Fabric Silt Fence Maintenance (at cmp)	100	LF	\$2.00	\$200.00
Synthetic Fabric Silt Fence Removal (at cmp)	100	LF	\$1.00	\$100.00
Crushed Rock Surfacing for Parking Lot	775	CY	\$28.00	\$21,700.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,369.00</b>

## Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects and Operations Subcommittee  
Subject: Mopac Equestrian Trail – Re-bidding of Project  
Date: January 29, 2007  
By: Gerry Bowen

The chronology of the Mopac Equestrian Trail Project is attached for your reference. This is to provide clarity for Ms. Fraser's testimony at the February Board meeting. In addition, we visited with Mr. Dan Schulz with the Lower Platte South NRD regarding the Oak Creek Trail. He noted that the Horse Council did work to help prepare the Oak Creek for equestrian use. The LPSNRD provided chemicals and some tools. They also used their equipment (skid-steer loader) to clear critical areas.

Management has evaluated the Mopac Equestrian Trail Project, the amount of work, and the bids and has arrived at a recommended course of action to complete the project. It involves a combination of eliminating some project elements, performing some work (tree clearing) in-house and contracting out the remainder of the work as follows:

1. NRD staff (Walnut Creek Lake) will perform all of the clearing necessary to create a separate pathway through the corridor, primarily the northern 1.5 miles. This would be accomplished using the District's skid loader and chain saws. Trees would be cut off at the ground surface and stumps chemically treated. Cleared trees will be placed along the corridor to form a natural barrier, and to provide habitat.
2. The existing bridge surface (metal grate) will be left as is on both bridges.
3. Fencing will be limited to the east side of the trail right-of-way between Buffalo Creek and Cornish Road and the quarter-mile stretch immediately north of Buffalo Creek (contracted item).
4. The trailhead parking lot will be installed (contracted item).
5. Only one of the pedestrian trail culverts (four were included in the original project) will be extended to accommodate the equestrian usage (contracted item).

The engineer's cost estimate (see attached) for this revised work plan is \$55,000. The funding sources would be as follows:

Game and Parks Commission	\$40,000
Mopac Horse Council	7,500
NRD	<u>7,500</u>
	\$55,000

It is proposed that bidding for the contracted items would occur during February with a recommendation regarding the bids presented at the March 8, 2007 Board meeting. The tree clearing work by NRD staff is proposed to begin the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>, and is expected to be completed prior to the March Board meeting.

**It is recommended that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the Mopac Equestrian Trail Project be modified as proposed and that competitive bids be sought on the amended project for consideration in March.**

## Mopac Equestrian Trail – Chronology of Events

1. April, 2005 – PPO Subcommittee considered a request from Vicki Fraser (letter and petition) to allow equestrian use of the Mopac Trail (Springfield to the Platte River). Board directed staff to prepare cost estimate for project and report back in May.
2. May, 2005 – Staff recommended tabling for 60 days to further investigate. Subcommittee and Board approved.
3. July, 2005 - Staff presented proposal for trail alterations for equestrian use that included horse council pay half the cost, horses on separate path, re-decking bridges, culvert modifications, identification of a northern trailhead, and fencing. Subcommittee sent to Board with no recommendation (motion for staff recommendation failed). Board approved staff recommendation.
4. August, 2005 – Public meeting held in Springfield about horse trail and potential of using land owned by City of Springfield for use as trailhead.
5. August, 2005 – Staff approached OPPD about use of Springfield Substation as a trailhead parking area for horses.
6. September, 2005 – Subcommittee approved and Board endorsed application for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for funding assistance.
7. September, 2005 – OPPD sent letter to NRD allowing use of substation for trailhead. OPPD letter included with NGPC application.
8. November, 2005 – attended NGPC RTP Committee meeting to consider applications.
9. January, 2006 – Received approval from Nebraska Horse Council of grant.
10. January 27, 2006 – NGPC notified NRD of approval of cost share for Mopac Equestrian Trail.
11. February, 2006 – Requested McNaney to prepare legal description of OPPD site for inclusion in easement. Completed March 1.
12. March, 2006 – Contacted (telephone) OPPD concerning easement and was notified that they had re-thought their commitment for use of the site and decided against the easement. Staff then recommended use of the NRD southern trailhead for horse trail use (originally rejected by NRD and Horse Council due to safety concerns about going under Highway 50 and using a surface crossing on Highway 50).
13. April, 2006 – Submitted revised application to NGPC for new trailhead and revised cost estimate.
14. May, 2006 – Funding agreement signed with NGPC.
15. August, 2006 – Contract signed with EDC for engineering services.
16. November, 2006 – Plans submitted for review and acceptance by NGPC for project. NGPC required some changes and plans were resubmitted to NGPC for approval.
17. December, 2006 – Project advertised (three weeks as required by NGPC); Site showing on December 27, 2006.
18. January, 2007 – Bids opened. Staff recommended rejection of bids as being too high, more than double engineer's estimate. Staff recommended changes to scope and re-bidding project during January. Board rejected bids, but also held over consideration of project for 30 days so that staff could prepare a more comprehensive procedure for completing the project.



