

Memorandum

To: Papio-Missouri River NRD Board of Directors

Subject: MoPac Trail (Highway 50 to Chalco Hills) – NDOR Agreement

Date: May 6, 2009

From: Gerry Bowen

As you may be aware, the District has been working on the plans for the Mopac Trail (Highway 50 to Chalco Hills). The trail will travel west from Highway 50 along Schram Road to 168th Street, then north to Chalco Hills Recreation Area (see attached map). Last September, the District applied for Transportation Enhancement funding for the project. Recently, the District was notified by the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) that the Mopac Trail (Highway 50 to Chalco Hills) was approved for funding (\$500,000). NDOR and the District need to execute a funding agreement to formalize the cost-share arrangement. The agreement calls for the attached resolution to be adopted.

In the course of design, we have encountered a problem with the trail's crossing at Highway 50. The existing trail that runs south through Springfield is on the east side of Highway 50 and this connecting trail will be approaching the highway from the west.

Since Highway 50 is now designated as an expressway (divided highway, 65 mph speed limit), NDOR has determined that an at-grade crossing of the highway at Schram Road will not be allowed for safety reasons. They have indicated that a "tunnel", or "bridge spanning the highway" are the only acceptable crossing alternatives at this time. The District's consultant, Lamp Rynearson & Associates, has estimated the cost of these alternatives to be between \$400,000 and \$580,000, which would be on top of the current cost estimate of \$1.1 million.

Further complications are that the Schram Road/Highway 50 intersection will be signalized in the next five years or so, making a tunnel/bridge less needed.

To address this, it has been decided the trail will now stop short of Highway 50, with the crossing at the intersection addressed as a future segment. Trail users would be encouraged to turn around and head back to Chalco Hills, but they could cross the highway on their own to continue south on the trail. A similar alternative exists for trail users traveling north from Springfield.

Management has also learned that bidding and construction on all trail projects receiving federal funds will be handled by NDOR. This new requirement was called for by the Nebraska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In addition, the FHWA will now oversee all phases of the project and require sponsors to follow federal guidelines for plan preparation, right-of-way acquisition, and contract administration. With these new requirements, it is estimated that actual trail construction would commence in 2011.

- Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board that the following proposed resolutions be approved and that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads for the funding of the MoPac Trail (Highway 50 to Chalco Hills segment).

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District wishes to enter into an agreement with the State of Nebraska Department of Roads to construct a granular and concrete pedestrian and bicycle trail from Chalco Hills Recreation Area to Nebraska Highway 50, with funds made available through STP Enhancement Program funds, and

WHEREAS, the Federal share payable shall be a maximum of forty-seven(47) percent of the eligible costs thereof, up to a maximum payment of federal funds of \$500,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District shall be responsible for approximately \$562, 913.00, which is estimated by the NRD to be the NRD's fifty-three (53) percent matching share of eligible project costs, and

WHEREAS, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District has agreed to place in its fiscal budget said amount,

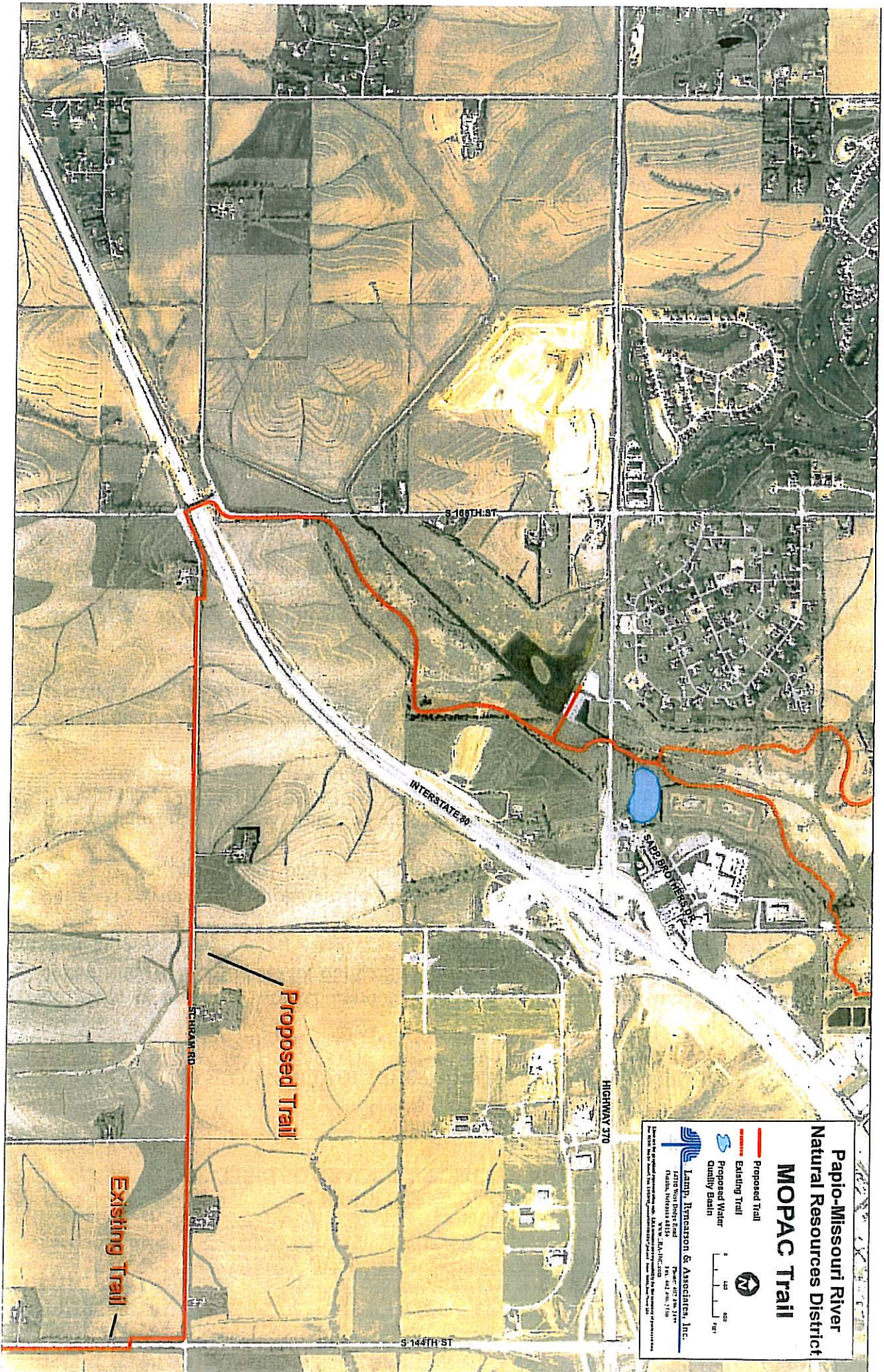
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT, Omaha, Nebraska, that the NRD enter into an agreement with the State of Nebraska Department of Roads for the construction of a granular and concrete pedestrian and bicycle trail from Chalco Hills Recreation Area to Nebraska Highway 50; that this project be constructed under the designation of Project Number ENH-28(98), Control Number 22413, and that the terms and conditions as contained in the Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads are hereby approved and that the NRD's General Manager is hereby authorized to execute said Agreement.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2009.

_____,
General Manager

ATTEST:

_____,
Natural Resources Planner



**Pappo-Missouri River
Natural Resources District
MOPAC Trail**

Proposed Trail
 Existing Trail
 Proposed Water Quality Basin

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Map made by the District's Planning Committee. All boundaries are subject to the District's Planning Committee's review.