

DATE: June 2, 2025

MEMO TO: Paul Frank, Chair
Planning Committee

FROM: Ken Jones
Director of Land Preservation

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a request from the Lake County Division of Transportation to consider the transfer of fee simple title to an approximately 0.037-acre parcel, and the grant of an approximately 0.219-acre temporary easement at Greenbelt Forest Preserve for proposed improvements to Lewis Avenue.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time.

BACKGROUND: The Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) is in the process of preparing preliminary Phase I design plans for future improvements to Lewis Avenue from Illinois Route 137 to Belvidere Road in the cities of North Chicago and Waukegan. The scope of the project is to modernize the route to enhance safety, improve mobility, and increase non-motorized connectivity.

As part of the proposed improvements, LCDOT is requesting additional right-of-way within Greenbelt Forest Preserve, consisting of: (i) approximately 0.034 acres of right-of-way in fee simple for southwest corner radius improvements at the intersection of 10th Street and Lewis Avenue, (ii) approximately 0.003 acres of right-of-way in fee simple for northwest corner radius improvements at the intersection of Audrey Nixon Boulevard (14th Street) and Lewis Avenue, and (iii) an approximately 0.219-acre temporary construction easement for grading and the installation of curb, gutter, and sidewalks along nearly the entire eastern boundary of Greenbelt on Lewis Avenue. Staff is seeking approval to continue discussions with LCDOT, and for authorization to prepare the appropriate conveyance documents and, if necessary, an intergovernmental agreement.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Natural Resources, Director of Planning, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel.