



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE

DATE: July 7, 1994

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

MEMO TO: James LaBelle, Chairman  
Finance and Administrative Committee

AGENDA ITEM #

8.8

FROM: Steven K. Messerli  
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Resolution endorsing U.S. Route 45 Alignment A.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve resolution endorsing U. S. Route 45, Alignment A, the most easterly of the proposed western by-pass and providing for the appropriate connection of Grass Lake Road and Millburn Road.

**BACKGROUND:** The District has been aware that the widening of U.S. Route 45 is currently being planned by the Illinois Department of Transportation to accommodate increased traffic levels which will result from long-range area growth. Accordingly, the District's President's Advisory Committee and Finance and Administrative Committees have reviewed a proposal regarding the western by-pass for Route 45 around the Millburn Historic District through McDonald Woods Forest Preserve. On July 1, 1994 Martin Buehler, County Engineer, reviewed the proposed center line for the relocation of U.S. Route 45. Based on County and Forest Preserve staff review of the alignment alternatives, the District recommends that Alignment A, the more easterly of the proposed western by-pass, be considered for the center line. The Forest Preserve land would consist of approximately 6 acres. The proposed alignment appears to contain no significant native plant or wildlife habitat. It consists of old farm fields and trees that have grown up along a fork of Mill Creek that would go through the corridor. The alignment does not impact any recreational activities.

The District will continue to be involved in the site specific planning and engineering of any potential westerly by-pass through Forest Preserve property.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Committee and Board approval are being requested.

**REVIEWED BY OTHERS:** Executive Director and Director of Planning, Conservation and Development.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Approval of this resolution has no immediate or direct impact at this time.

**PRESENTER:** Steven K. Messerli, Executive Director



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION ENDORSING ALIGNMENT A,  
THE MOST EASTERLY OF THE PROPOSED WESTERN BY-PASS

WHEREAS, the Strategic Regional Arterial System is a designated 1,340 mile network of major roads in Northeastern Lake County as contained in the approve Chicago Regional Year 2010 Transportation System Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Route 45 is classified as a Strategic Regional Arterial and is part of said plan; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best public interest that the historic area of Millburn be preserved and protected to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve and protect the historic Millburn area and to ensure the safety of motoring public and the free flow of traffic it is desirous that U.S. Route 45 eventually be relocated to the west of the existing Millburn historic town; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Transportation has underway a study for the mathematization for the said future western by-pass with two (2) identified centerlines presented to the County Engineer to date: Alignment A, the most easterly of the western by-passes and Alignment B, the most westerly of the western by-passes, as depicted on Exhibit A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the County Engineer and the Lake County Forest Preserve District staff and Finance and Administrative Committee have examined said realignments and all have recommended Alignment A, as a better alternative from a traffic flow standpoint on Grass Lake Road (County Highway 18) and reduced impact on Forest Preserve property; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lake has, by Resolution, provided for the traffic operation of Grass Lake Road/Millburn Road provided for in said future relocation by designating a portion of existing Route 45 as part of the County Highway system to connect said roads.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, THAT:

Section 1: Recitals The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2: Endorsement of Alignment A. The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District hereby endorses Alignment A, the more easterly of the westerly by-pass of U. S. Route 45 around the historic Millburn town and through McDonald Woods, as depicted on Exhibit A attached hereto, subject to all appropriate agreements concerning compensation to the District and provisions for the protection of adjacent District lands.

Section 3: Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this 15 day of July, 1994

AYES:

*Voice vote*

NAYS:

APPROVED this 15 day of July, 1994

*Colin L. McRae*  
Colin L. McRae, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

*Corinne R. McMahon*  
Corinne R. McMahon, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

*Exhibit #2342*