

Notice of Public Information Meeting

Proposed Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail

Date: Oct. 13 and Oct 14

Time: 7:00 pm CT

Place:

Oct. 13 - Platte community Center, 310 Main St. Platte, SD 57356

Oct. 14 - Duck In at 58 3rd Avenue, Lake Andes, SD 57356

The Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail will hold a public meeting to discuss and receive input on the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail concept for a multipurpose trail on the rail banked section of the NAPA to Platte rail line. A presentation will be given explaining the proposed project. All persons interested in this project are invited to attend this meeting to share your views and concerns.

Letters to share your view point may be addressed to: Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail, P.O. Box 454, Tyndall, SD 57066.

For further information regarding this meeting or project please contact Ron Wagner @ 605-464-1085 or online at www.friendsoftabortoplatterailtotrail.com

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT - 2021-003

Transform a portion of the 'NAPA to Platte Rail Line' into a Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group has been formed that represents the Yankton Sioux Tribe, and the communities of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, Pickstown, Avon, Springfield, and Tyndall; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a recreational trail be created on approximately 70 miles of the 'NAPA to Platte Rail Line' through heritage Yankton Sioux tribal land and scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line to be converted into a recreational trail is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as the State of South Dakota is evaluating options for salvaging rails, spikes, plate ties, and ballast, and placing the property into an idle status such as Rail Bank; and

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail potentially enhances the visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, as well as properties operated by the Yankton Sioux Tribe, by encouraging visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and favorably impacts the Yankton Sioux Tribe, and the communities of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, Pickstown, Avon, Springfield, and Tyndall; and


WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve "livability conditions" that attract new residents, and stimulate business formations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned committee members, each a resident of the area, or representing an informed stakeholder interest, agree to operate as a committee, a formal name to be determined, and advocate for creation and sustainable operation of said recreational trail; and,


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the undersigned wish to notify the offices of Congressman Dusty Johnson, Senator Rounds, Senator Thune, Governor Kristi Noem and state legislators of our support for this recreational trail proposal.

Dated this 3rd day of May, 2021.

City of Lake Andes


Ryan Frederick, Mayor

ATTEST:


Debra Houseman, Finance Officer

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and,

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

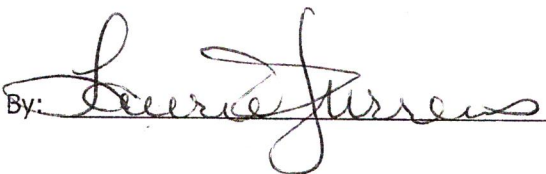
WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Avon endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2021.

For the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Avon

By: 

Title: President

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Tyndall endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 8 day of September 2021

For the City of Tyndall

By:  Title: Mayor

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

^{Marty}
Attachment #4

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Marty endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 30 day of August 2021

For the City of Marty

By: Graedine Provost Title: Chairperson Marty
Community

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Attachment #4 *ov*

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Tabor endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 8th day of September 2021

For the City of Tabor

By: Laverne J. Schiffer

Title: Mayor

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Attachment #4

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Springfield endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 8 day of Sept 2021

For the City of Springfield,

By:

Michael Lee
Michael Lee

Title:

Mayor

Attested:

Tiffany Balorn
Tiffany Balorn

Title: Chief Finance officer

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

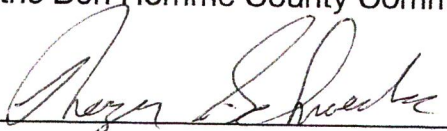
WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Wagner Area Growth endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 20 day of September 2021

For the Bon Homme County Commission

By: 

Title: President

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Pickstown endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 8 day of Sept. 2021

For the City of Pickstown

By: Cindy Brouhll

Title: Board President

RESOLUTION 2021-05
A RESOLUTION SUPPORT

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor To Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravina, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall, and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

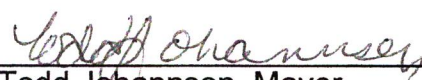
WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Wagner endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

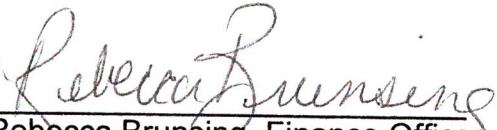
Dated this 27th day of September 2021

CITY OF WAGNER



Todd Johannsen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rebecca Brunsing, Finance Officer

A motion was made for the above resolution by Dufur, second by Soukup. Upon roll call vote being taken, those voting AYE: Soukup, Dufur, Cimpl and Kirwan. Those voting NAY: None. Absent: Beeson and Mohr. Those abstaining: None. Motion carried. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2021-05 duly passed and adopted, affixed his signature thereto in approval thereof and directed the same to be published in the official newspaper.

Resolution Adopted: September 27th, 2021

Publication Date: October 6th, 2021

Effective Date: October 26th, 2021

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Platte City Council Meeting minutes - 9/20/21

Resolution No. 09202021 - Rails to Trails: Dr. Jerome Bentz, Marcus King, Rich and Julie Gustad, and Tom Travis were all present to speak in favor of the Rails to Trails project asking the City for support in signing the resolution. Finance Officer Meyerink explained to the council, City Attorney Tim Whalen's concerns within the resolution. City Attorney Tim Whalen had expressed to Meyerink the concerns of the verbiage "endorses". Councilmember Carter moved to support the efforts of the Rails to Trails Committee in their vision restructure the existing unused railbed into a trail and provide the committee with a letter of recommendation in the future. Motion seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Motion carried on a voice vote of 4-2 with Councilmembers Lang and VandenHoek opposing. No action taken on the resolution.

NEW BUSINESS.

Project Updates - SPN/Helms Engineering: Jeff McCormick of SPN Engineering and Mike Schmit of Helms and Associates were both present to address questions regarding the below update provided to council.

City of Platte - Project Update
September 20, 2021



To Whom It May Concern:

The city of Tyndall has established itself as a pioneer among South Dakota communities working to help support residents improve their health and well-being.

Healthy HometownSM Powered by Wellmark has been working with community leaders in Tyndall since 2019 to assist them in implementing evidence-based health and well-being interventions making it easier for their residents to make healthy choices. We've worked alongside community members to provide consultation and planning assistance for their efforts to improve walkability and bikability in the community.

Following the completion of a walking audit led by Healthy Hometown experts, community leaders began working towards ways to make streets and sidewalks safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, while also thinking beyond their own small community. Their quest for a regional trail is truly visionary and quite impressive for a small community to facilitate. Tyndall community leaders have shown strong drive and commitment to community projects in the past, such as the wonderful walking path, community fishing pond, and other amenities at the Tyndall city park. They show great community pride and cohesiveness through their community projects.

Please consider supporting Tyndall's trail coalition's efforts to create a regional trail in Southeastern South Dakota. They will set a strong example for others to do this kind of work, helping South Dakotan's live healthier, happier lives.

Sincerely,

Mary Lawyer

Director of Community Health Improvement

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

September 29, 2021

Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail Trail
Robert Foley, Secretary
PO Box 464
Tyndall, SD 57066-0464

Dear Mr. Foley:

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is a supporter of the development of safe, convenient, and efficient multimodal transportation systems. NDOT fully supports the proposed multi-year recreation trail development in Nebraska and with neighbors in South Dakota. We want to recognize and promote alternative transportation modes, along with giving opportunities for mobility of people. This project will also maintain the economic viability and quality of life of the communities it will impact. Therefore, NDOT is in full support of the submittal of the grant to construct the regional trail network concept.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Erich Strack
Government Affairs Manager

Cc: Jodi Gibson, Local Assistance Division

John R. Selmer, P.E., Director
Department of Transportation

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 94750
Lincoln, NE 68509-4750

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
1500 Highway 2
Lincoln, NE 68502

PHONE 402-471-4567
EMAIL NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

dot.nebraska.gov

Wagner Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 697

Wagner, SD 57380

To Whom It May Concern;

This is a "RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT" for the creation of a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail.

WHEREAS, a group named "Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail" has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposed a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

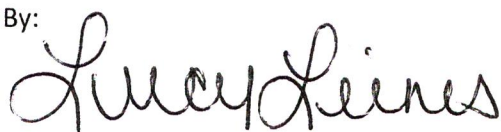
WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Wagner Chamber of Commerce endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2021.

For Wagner Chamber of Commerce

By:



Title:

Chamber President

**Tyndall Development, Inc
Post Office Box 454
Tyndall, SD 57066**

Letter of support,

The Tyndall Development, Inc is very supportive of the Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail. This trail could provide an economic boost to our community and would be an excellent opportunity to show case the wonderful environment we have in southeast South Dakota.

Please except this \$5,000 donation in support for the creation of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail project for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Wagner".

Ron Wagner
Tyndall Development, Inc President

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Create a Regional Multipurpose Recreational Trail

WHEREAS, a group named **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail** has been formed that represents communities in Charles Mix County of Platte, Geddes, Ravinia, Lake Andes, Wagner, Dante, and Pickstown, and in Bon Homme County of Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor; and

WHEREAS, said group proposes a regional multipurpose recreational trail be created from a corridor on approximately 70 miles of the rail line through heritage Yankton Sioux Tribal Land, in scenic, historic sections of Bon Homme and Charles Mix Counties, and will connect with state and national parks, said proposed trail to accommodate multi-season use including cycling, hiking, equestrian activity, snowmobiling and Nordic skiing; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed recreational trail would enhance visitor experience at nearby South Dakota State Parks and Recreational Areas along the Missouri River, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, encourage visitors to extend stays and to make return visits, and positively impact area communities; and,

WHEREAS, national experience testifies "rail to trail" conversions encourage economic diversification, improve livability conditions, enhance local lifestyles, attract new residents, and stimulate new business formations; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed portion of the rail line, owned and controlled by the Rail Authority of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is currently unused by, and no longer viable for, commercial railroad traffic; and,

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as a funding opportunity, from the American Rescue Plan distributed through from the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformational outdoor recreation projects, exists for a limited time; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that RASDak Inc endorses said regional recreational trail concept and supports efforts of Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail to secure said funds from EDA.

Dated this 8th day of August 2021

For RASDak Inc.

By: Kasey Abbott

Title: President



SOUTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM • 1101 BROADWAY, SUITE 113 • YANKTON, SD 57078

Phone: 605-665-2435 or 888-353-7382 • Fax: 605-665-8776 • Website: www.southeastsouthdakota.com

Friday, September 3, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association (SSDTA), I am pleased to write this letter in support of the concept of the creation of a future multi-use recreational trail in our region and current grant funding for a proposed project.

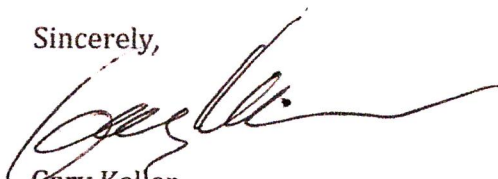
Southeast South Dakota Tourism is the official 501(c)6 membership-driven non-profit organization dedicated toward increasing the economic impact of the visitor industry on Southeastern South Dakota. Currently, we have been made aware of the efforts by the **Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in our region. The Friends group is proposing a regional multipurpose recreation trail be created from a corridor on 70 miles of rail line in our region.

The proposed trail would enhance the visitor experience for nearby communities as well as South Dakota State Parks and Recreation Areas along the Missouri River near Lewis & Clark Lake. This is an area that is currently ripe for a new attraction to serve the visitor industry. A trail such as the one proposed would enhance the existing attractions and encourage visitors to extend stays and make return visits.

Trails such as the one being proposed have become community success stories, encouraging economic diversification, improving livability conditions, enhancing local lifestyles, attracting new residents and stimulating new business formations. A recent grant opportunity from the American Rescue Plan and distributed through the Economic Development Administration of the United States Commerce Department for transformation outdoor recreation projects exists for a limited time. Should Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail be successful in its bid for funding through this grant, the proposed project's odds of success would improve markedly.

The Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association supports the concept of, and the grant-funding efforts by the Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail and believe a realized trail such as the one being proposed has the strong possibility of being a major tourism success story for our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Keller".

Gary Keller
Executive Director

Ann Rohlfig
41321 304th Street
Tyndall, SD 57066

October 6, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my excitement in regards to Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail proposal. My husband and I are landowners along the current railroad and I would like to see this developed into a recreational trail. Our community of Tyndall is small and currently does not have any trails over a quarter mile in length. This trail would allow for more outdoor recreational opportunities in our community.

I am an avid runner and occasional biker and do find it difficult to find safe areas to perform these activities. A trail like the one proposed will be a safe way for myself, my family, and local community members to get exercise and enjoy time outside.

I do work in the health industry and it is no secret that obesity rates are rising every year and our community is no exception. This trail would be a wonderful way for our state and local communities to encourage increased activity. It may be an investment now, but will reduce health care costs in the long term.

The trail will be beneficial for individual health and it has the potential to bring increased revenue to small communities along the trail. Other railroads that have been converted to recreational trails often host events that attract many visitors (i.e. Mickelson Trail Marathon).

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider this proposal and the many benefits it will bring to the communities involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ann M. Rohlfig', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ann M. Rohlfig

Friends of Pabor to Platte R-R
 To whom it may concern:

As a land owner in Charles Mix Co., I want to support the above group.

We have an abundance of hunters and fishermen who come to this area for their sport and are grateful for them. But we also have bikers and walk and runners. These people need a safe place for their walks and runs and to ride their bikes. This ^{trail} place would be a great asset to our community of Geddes.

It would also bring in tourism trade to our small town, county and state.

It would also be a benefit to the Yankton Sioux Tribe as their walk way was washed away in the last flooding in Charles Mix County at Lake Under.

The "trail care" would connect state parks, Lewis and Clark and Francis Case, the Missouri National Recreational River and many small communities.

Sincerely,

Irene Muskman
 P.O. Box 95
 Geddes, S.D. 57342

Letter of Support

Re:

Proposed Rail to
+ Rail ProjectDeaf's Amoco
Box 97

Geddes SD 5739

To whom it may concern.

On behalf of a ^{Geddes} businessowner (55 years) ^(28 years) past member of
28 years Geddes City Council (18 years as
mayor), also my wife and I live
on or next to proposed Rail head

by Pass Route to and through Geddes

Now, therefore be it Resolved
that I owner operator of Deaf's Amoco
do hereby endorse said Regional
Recreational Rail concept and
support efforts of friends of the
Tabor to Platte trail to secure
said funds from EDA.Thank you for your efforts to
provide economic development
for small communities and safety
for our youth-teens-adults.dated Sep 25 2021 *Renald D. Decker*

Sept. 24, 2021

To whom it may concern,

As a Charles Mix County land owner, retired rural hospitality business owner, and former member of South Dakota Tourism, I am happy to support the efforts of "Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail".

We have had a few bikers come through our area and they seem to enjoy our rural environment and small town Mom & Pop businesses.

Tourism has become very important for our small towns, county, and State. There are many small towns along the rail, who would benefit from this trail. The proposed recreational trail would enhance the visitor experience at nearby State Parks & recreation areas, along the Missouri River. This would be a boost to the economies of the small towns along the tracks, the counties, the Yankton Sioux Tribe and South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Judy Parker

28383 372nd Ave.

Geddes, SD 57342

TO: Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail, Inc.

I am writing to your group to express my support for this project. I am a landowner with property just west of the old elevator at Ravinia, SD. I have no qualms about having the railbed restored and made into a recreational trail.

I seriously doubt that people who are going to use the trail will abuse the landowners' fields. I am confident they will be more respectful than all the hunters who just walk in to pheasant hunt or shoot geese even though the land is posted as "No Hunting."

I have written letters and made phone calls in the past years to the State of South Dakota, the Rail Authority, and Dakota Southern. No one ever wanted to accept responsibility for the property when it came to mowing or spraying weeds. I was always referred to someone else or just ignored.

I was on the verge of reporting the weed infestation at the trestle bridge behind our private property on the West edge of Wagner to the County Weed Board. I knew that would cause trouble since it had recently been "gifted" to the City of Wagner after the DOT abandoned the mile of 50 and 281 and moved the Junction to west of Wagner. I was happy to see that the City personnel mowed it as soon as they received the property.

The State of South Dakota is just as guilty as Dakota Southern for not maintaining the property. I cannot imagine that landowners prefer all kinds of thistle and trees growing on and around the rails to having it cleaned up and maintained at no cost to them.

You have my total support for this project. I wish you all the success in the world. I know this is a difficult undertaking.

Linda M Soukup

904 Estates Drive

Wagner, South Dakota 57380

I am offering my support to develop the idle rail line from Platte to Tyndall into a bicycle path. The last use of the rail track was in 1989 by the Dakota Southern Line. It does not make good sense to let the property be inactive. Allowing a private group to develop and use the line for biking, running, walking, and other outdoor activities would attract visitors to the area, but more importantly it would give local residents a safe place to have outdoor recreation. I am the cross country coach for the Andes Central/Dakota Christian Sports Coop cross country team and would definitely use this proposed development for our practices. I always worry about my runners in our practices running along county gravel roads and on the shoulders of highways when we meet farm equipment, trucks, and heavy traffic. I have also served 18 years in the South Dakota Legislature and worked to support tourism, not only in the Black Hills, but all across our great state. A scenic, well designed bike path will expand tourism in South Dakota.

Thank you,

Larry Lucas
409 James Avenue
Pickstown, SD 57367
(605) 208-8333

September 7, 2021

Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail
Box 454
Tyndall, SD 57066

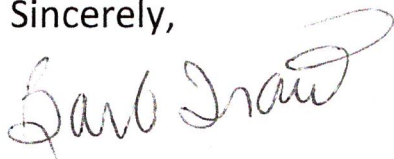
Dear Friends,

Thank you for the info your recently sent regarding a "rail to trail" possibility. I think this would be a wonderful idea for a bike/hike path.

I'm sure you have some opposition to this, but I am all for it. Hope this will happen at some point.

Again, I thank you for sending me the info, and I will pass the word around the Platte area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barb Travis".

Barb Travis
26949 360th Ave.
Platte, SD 57369

Rail Trail

Attachment #4

From: "Konrad Finck" <kfinck@gmail.com>

08/30/21 07:58

To: jrwagner@hcinet.net

Hi Ron,

As a landowner along the old rail line, I am interested in following the developments on this project. Living now in Pennsylvania, I greatly appreciate and frequently use the rail trails that have been built here. Please keep me informed as to progress.

Thanks.

Konrad Finck

Trail Comments form Mary Walkes

Attachment #4

From: "Robert Foley" <rfoley9147@gmail.com>

09/09/21 07:37

To: "Janet & Ron Wagner" <jrwagner@hcinet.net>, jwbentz@midstatesd.net

Jan, Ron, Judy, Jerome. Mary Walkes sent me these. Below copies, comments. She and her husband Dave live on family farm land between Avon and Tyndall that borders the NAPA-Platte line. Bob

I am cautiously supportive of the proposed trail that will run through our property and be at the end of our driveway. If this is modeled after the Mickelson Trail, I believe it can be a positive for us. My concern is if motorized vehicles will be allowed it is likely to shatter the peacefulness of living here, undermine the enjoyment of a bike trail and alter the type of people using the trail.

Sent from _____ for Windows