

Good morning,

The Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail has hosted two public meeting since we last met on September 29th.

The sites for the meetings were selected at the largest towns on the rail banked line. The first meeting was in Platte was on Oct. 13th and had 84 people in attendance. The next meeting was in Lake Andes on Oct. 14th with 44 people in attendance.

The audience was allowed to speak on their support or concerns about the proposed Rail to Trail project. At the end of the comments the meeting was opened for questions. From the speakers and letters of concern we have received, there are 6 major issues which we need to address. They are as follows:

## 1. **Liability**

A. The Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail are currently looking into a quote for liability insurance to cover the general liability of the trail. This would include at least a \$1,000,000 coverage per incident and an umbrella or commercial excess liability of \$10,000,000.

## 2. **Safety**

A. We will be working with the local EMS, fire departments and police departments showing them the map of the trail and access points. The trails will be marked with mile markers for location and we believe the area has cellphone and 911 coverage.

B. There will be signage for the biking/hiking routes at each trail head.

C. Side rails per guide lines will be placed on all trestles.

D. At all points of access there will signage placed according to the trail design.

E. There will be no camping on the trail. The trail will open 1/2 hours before sunrise and close 1/2 hour after sunset. The cities on the trail will decide what serves such as camping, restrooms and parking they wish to provide.

F. We will not be open in the winter months in which snow is on the trail.

G. All State highway, county road and township road rules will be followed.

H. There will be no hunting or trapping on the trail or trail right away. The same as it is now with the rail line.

I. The State will remove the ties, rails, spikes and plates and remove the trees on the rail bed. They will leave the trestles and culverts in place.

J. All dogs must be leashed or controlled.

K. No guns or bows will be allowed on the trail.

### 3. **Give land back to the farmers**

A. It is not the Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail committee's authority to give the rail banked land back to the farmers. The rail banked land has been kept for specific rail purposes. The rail to trail is a purpose of the rail bank.

### 4. **Gates, Fencing and Livestock**

A. We will work with the farmers on placing fences and gates for livestock access. The cost of the fencing will be cover by the Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail as we want to be good neighbors.

B. The walk gates will be weighted shelf closing.

C. Vehicle access gates or cattle crossings will be placed on the trail per engineered design.

### 5. **Motorized Vehicles**

A. There will be no motorized vehicles on the trail except for maintenance and emergency vehicles.

B. Adjacent landowners will be able to cross the trail for farming and ranching purposes.

### 6. **Maintenance**

A. The Friends of Tabor to Platte Rail to Trial will follow the directions recommended by the engineered design. It will be our responsibility to do maintenance on the trail.