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Josh Shaw
City Manager
Cody Sims
Assistant City Manager
Erica Jones
City Clerk/Finance Director
Todd Ackerman
Public Safety Director
Makala Navarro
Human Resources Manager
Tim Johnson
Utilities Director

December 22, 2022

Address Block
Address Block
Address Block

Re: Notice of Intent for Rail Trail Development – Redbud Trail

Dear Adjacent Property Owner,

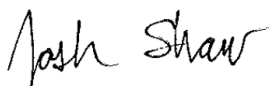
The purpose of this letter is to notify you of recent actions by the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding the 3.15-mile railroad corridor between HWY 54/400 and the Whitewater River near the City of Augusta, commonly known as the “Redbud Trail.” This corridor is part of the federal railbanking program, which exists to preserve inactive railroad rights-of-way for future use if rail services ever need to be restored. The method used to preserve the corridor under this program is to maintain it as a pedestrian recreational trail.

Butler County has held the Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) trail manager responsibilities for this corridor segment since 2005. In February 2022, the Butler County Commission approved the transfer of the NITU to the City of Augusta and filed the necessary documents with STB to request authorization for the transfer. On December 6, 2022 the STB issued a final opinion, Docket No. AB 870X, authorizing the transfer of the NITU responsibilities to the City of Augusta. Pursuant to the Kansas Recreational Trails Act, K.S.A. 58-3208 et seq., the purpose of this letter is to notify you of the City of Augusta’s intent to build a recreational trail adjacent to your property within this railroad corridor. Once constructed, the Redbud Trail will be a continuous trail stretching from downtown Wichita to downtown Augusta.

The City of Augusta has prepared a preliminary project plan available on our city website, www.augustaks.org, including the name and address of the responsible party for the trail, an itemized estimate of the costs and sources of funding for the project, and maps of the recreational trail. This preliminary project plan was approved by the Augusta City Council on December 19, 2022 and will be presented to the Butler County Commission at their upcoming meeting on January 24, 2023.

Enclosed for your reference is a copy of the Kansas Recreational Trails Act outlining the City of Augusta’s responsibilities as trail manager and your rights as an adjacent property owner. As we move further into the trail development process to utilize the corridor for its federally intended purpose under the railbanking program, we intend to be a good neighbor and will reach out to you again to discuss items such as fencing, access easements, etc. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at jshaw@augustagov.org or by phone at 316-775-4510.

Sincerely,


Josh Shaw
City Manager

Enclosure: Kansas Recreational Trails Act Statute