PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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MEMO

TO: Cameron Van Wyngarden, Township Superintendent

FROM: Bill Fischer, Community Development Director

DATE: May 6, 2026

RE: Payback Agreement - Rogue River Bridge Project

This is a request for the Township Board to approve a payback agreement between the township and Kent County for the Rogue River bridge project funding.

In July of last year, the Township Board awarded a contract to Dan's Excavating Services to construct the South Rogue River Trail (SRRT). This project (contract) also includes a 10-foot wide separated, prefabricated steel pedestrian bridge that will be constructed over the Rogue River, parallel to the Rogue River Road bridge, which will be funded by Kent County.

Kent County's partnership with the SRRT project stems from the Grand River Greenway trail project. The Grand River Greenway trail is an effort led by the Kent County Board of Commissioners, through the county's Parks & Recreation Department, to extend non-motorized trails along the Grand River connecting to our neighboring counties to the east (Ionia County) and west (Ottawa County). The SRRT (and pedestrian bridge) will provide a vital link in this regional trail.

In addition to the pedestrian bridge over the Rogue River, Kent County intends to construct a tunnel underneath Northland Drive near the Rogue River Road/Seven Mile Road intersection, connect to the SRRT, and continue south and east with a trail to Cannonsburg Road and to our east boundary (Cannon Township). The county anticipates installing the tunnel this summer.

That said, the township is covering the cost for the pedestrian bridge and other project improvements up front; however, we will be reimbursed by Kent County. To formalize the reimbursement, we have prepared a payback agreement (attached) between the township and Kent County.

As noted in Section 3: Costs and Reimbursements of the agreement, Kent County will reimburse the township up to $990,000. This covers the cost of bridge engineering, construction, and related expenses, which is about $880,000. The remaining funds will cover other improvements such as landscaping, access gates, fencing, and other project features.

Regarding the schedule, the installation of the pedestrian bridge is planned for the week of May 11th. Completion of the west trail segment between the Rogue River and the White Pine Trail, along with the additional improvements previously mentioned, is expected by the end of May.

Recommendation. Staff recommends that the Township Board approve the proposed payback agreement between the township and Kent County for the Rogue River bridge project funding to formalize reimbursement.