

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOIRROF)

March 13th, 2025

Village of Bellwood
410 Taylor Street
Bellwood, NE 68624
(402) 538-4026

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Village of Bellwood, the recipient of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development grant, and also the Responsible Entity (RE).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 31st, 2025 the Village of Bellwood will submit a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or its State administering agency, Nebraska Department of Economic Development (State), for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), as amended, to undertake a project known as Bellwood Sidewalk Improvements, Phase II for the purpose of implementing a sidewalk improvement project within the municipal limits of the Village (“Project”). This Project includes all the appurtenances necessary for the establishment of a safe pedestrian walkway, including concrete pathways and ramps compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The sidewalk improvement plan includes the reconstruction of 12 blocks of sidewalks along the following Village streets: Esplanade, State, and Walnut. Proposed Project activities consist of replacing existing sidewalks that have severely deteriorated and are considered unsafe for travel, and installing new sidewalks in key locations to provide an uninterrupted and safe pathway for pedestrians. The total length of sidewalks to be improved is nearly three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of a linear mile. The sites identified for new sidewalk construction are owned by the Village and maintained by the residential owners. The surrounding project area is predominantly residential in character.

Project activities include topographic surveying, engineering design, removal of existing sidewalk, subgrade preparation, construction of new sidewalks, repairing damaged sprinkler systems, and lawn reseeding/watering. No changes in exterior lighting are anticipated to result from Project activities. Consideration will be taken to avoid tree removal where possible, but tree removal may occur. All new sidewalks will be constructed to a width of 4 feet and 4” in depth and will meet code requirements as set forth in the ADA — including ADA compliant ramps and installation of tactile warning pavers.

Project impacts will include temporary one lane traffic, noise, and dust. Businesses, residents and emergency services will be notified of all road closures and will be routed to alleyways or other roads during construction. Project activities will take place during normal business hours.

The total Project costs are estimated at \$525,000 which includes \$5,000 for Construction Management and \$25,000 for General Administration. Funding sources include a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for \$480,000 and a match from the Village of \$45,000. The Project will primarily benefit low to moderate income persons on an area basis. Construction will be completed within thirty (30) months. No persons, businesses, or farms will be displaced as a result of Project activities.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Village of Bellwood has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at 410 Taylor Street, Bellwood, NE 68624 where the ERR can be examined and may be copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M. The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to the address above or by email to clerk@bellwoodne.com. If the RE chooses to send the ERR to the public for review via U.S. mail, the RE will establish a timeframe for accepting comments with the person requesting the ERR.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Jennifer Stracke, Village Clerk. All comments received by March 28th, 2025 will be considered by the Village of Bellwood prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Village of Bellwood certifies to the State that Joyce Napier in their capacity as Village Board Chairman consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Village of Bellwood to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the Village of Bellwood's certification for a period of fifteen days following the

anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Village of Bellwood; (b) grant recipient has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) in writing to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Suite 002, Lincoln, NE 68521. Potential objectors should contact the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joyce Napier - Village Board Chair, Village of Bellwood
Certifying Officer