

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 3:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023, AT THE BONNIE NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 W. LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trustee and Chair Joyce Harant, Vice President and Vice Chair Laurie Covington and Executive Director Emily Cahill

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra (v), Vice President Laurie Covington, and President Robert Johnson (in at 4:17 pm)  
Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Mary Harden, Jacob Kuban, Mike Miller, and Alicia Woodworth

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Peoria Heights Community Development Director Wayne Aldrich and Peoria Heights Trustee Brandon Wisenburg, both leaving at 3:32 pm.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Joyce Harant called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. MINUTES**

**2.A. Approval of March 7, 2023 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

Vice President Covington moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023.

Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**4.A. Memorial Bench – Luthy Botanical Garden**

Becky Fredrickson stated that staff received a request from Steve Scott asking if he could donate a memorial bench and plants in memory of his mother, Carol Scott at Luthy Botanical Garden. Carol was an avid gardener and loved flowers. Bob Streitmatter, Garden Manager at Luthy, requested that the bench be similar to other benches in the garden. Steve Scott will cover the cost of the bench plus an additional \$500 for plants. Staff recommends approval of this memorial bench request for Carol Scott to be located at Luthy Botanical Garden.

Vice President Covington made a motion to accept the memorial bench at Luthy Botanical Gardens and present to the full Board for approval. Executive Director Cahill seconded the motion and carried on unanimous aye vote of those present.

**4.B. Memorial Bench - FPNC**

Matt Freeman stated that staff received a request from Eva Swiatek to place a memorial bench at Forest Park Nature Center in memory of her parents. Staff worked with the Swiatek family to identify several bench opportunities throughout the District but due to the sentimental relationship the family has with Forest Park Nature Center, they wish to do a bench at that location. The bench will also include a standardized plaque, with language agreed upon by the District and family. Staff recommends approval of this request. Staff will ensure the bench and plaque matches the Memorial and Tribute guidelines. All expenses will be incurred by the Swiatek family.

Vice President Covington made a motion to accept the memorial bench at Forest Park Nature Center and present to the full Board for approval. Executive Director Cahill seconded the motion and carried on unanimous aye vote of those present.

**4.C. Peoria Heights Park Analysis**

Executive Director Cahill thanked Mike Friberg for his GIS work and stated that after an inquiry received from Peoria Heights elected officials by the Board of Trustees, District staff has compiled information for the Planning Committee:

1. An overview of physical spaces in and adjacent to Peoria Heights that support Heights' residents, including a map showing access.
2. A rough overview of Heights' resident participation rates.
3. A review of District staffers' tour and recommendations of Heights' owned parks/playgrounds.

*Please see Attachment A.*

Trustee Wisenburg stated that Peoria Heights had hired a consultant to do a park study to provide recommendations on increasing access and amenities to Poplar Lane Park. One of the recommendations was installing a fishing dock. What is PPD's thoughts on that? Is it feasible? Mike Friberg stated that this was evaluated back when PPD was responsible for the Detweiller Marina slips. Making the slips accessible was studied and this type of project is very difficult to do, with the river moving as it does. You have to consider what are the maximum swings and so the slope is always increasing. It's not impossible, but it is very difficult and expensive. Another option would be installing an accessible path to the water line. However, even that would take a lot of planning and could be expensive. It would need footings to hold the path in place in order to stabilize it during the large swings of the river. The rise and flow of the river makes this type of project very very difficult.

Community Development Director Wayne Aldrich stated that he was tasked with implementing the comprehensive plan that was recommended by the consultant. There are many aspects of that plan that would involve the PPD and would benefit everyone. Ecotourism and use of the bluff area are some of those being considered. In regards to the bluff area's erosion issues, there are grants that Peoria Heights could potentially

partner with PPD in applying for those grants. There may be future projects and opportunities as well that Peoria Heights may want to partner with PPD. In PPD's future planning of Peoria Heights parks and properties, Peoria Heights would very much like to be a part of that process in the beginning. For future projects/discussions, please feel free to contact either Wayne Aldrich or Brandon Wisenburg.

Trustee Harant thanked Mr. Wisenburg and Mr. Aldrich for attending today's meeting and welcomed them to future meetings to present any issues or collaborations they may be seeking.

**4.D. Forest Park Foundation Parcels**

Becky Fredrickson gave an update on Forest Park Foundation's donating 7 or 8 parcels that most are adjacent to PPD properties. The properties are currently being assessed and once completed, will be taken to the PPD Board for approval.

**4.E. RiverPlex Updates**

Executive Director Cahill stated that the AquaPlex was closed last summer for significant improvements which made a great positive impact on the facility and its aesthetics and mechanical operation. Unfortunately, you will also recall that since it's reopening, we have experienced some issues with the surfacing pulling away from the structure and causing cracks and chipping that have resulted in rough surfacing which is not acceptable. After consultation with the contractors who performed the work last summer, the District announces that a full shutdown of the AquaPlex is necessary so that the contractors are able to resolve the ongoing issues and repair all areas of concern.

As such, beginning May 27, the pools will be drained and contractors will be on-site beginning Tuesday, May 30. The contractor will perform the corrective work without cost to the District, but does anticipate a complete shutdown through the end of July to address the concerns and correct the failures. Because of the dust and noise, the entire AquaPlex must be closed during this work. The District will maximize its impact during the closure by concurrently working to renovate the adjacent men's locker rooms beginning May 30.

This timeline for repairs has been set in line with the opening of outdoor pools at the Greater Peoria YMCA and the District's pools at Gwynn Family Aquatic Center and Proctor Recreation Center. These pools will help to fill the gap in service while repairs are made.

This information will be distributed to RiverPlex/YMCA members and to the full Board tomorrow. Members need to be given sufficient notice so they can plan accordingly. During the pool closure, at the same time the RiverPlex men's locker room work will be performed so as to minimize disruptions.

**4.F. Golf Learning Center Update**

Becky Fredrickson stated that an architect and engineer are currently working on the renovation plans for the inside of the building and site work. District staff met with them recently where they reviewed a concept plan. A large map was shown to those in attendance, displaying the concept plan. The renovation of the inside of the building will include a restaurant, ran by an outside vendor secured by the District.

Executive Director Cahill stated that in order to progress through the next step of the DCCEO grant that funds this, the District has to have the food and beverage plans finalized soon. Since the District was notified of the grant, staff has been talking with different local restauranteurs to see if they would be interested in taking this on. There are very few who are interested in expanding, especially with the labor shortage as it is. However, talks have started with two entities. One is a local brewery who is looking to expand into food and beverage. The two entities are interested in establishing a new LLC and would potentially work with PPD to move forward with them providing the food and beverage at GLC. Staff asked the Planning Committee for authorization to continue talking with these two entities. Staff anticipates developing a process that is very similar to that done previously where a Letter of Intent would be developed and brought to the Board. It would outline the structure of the terms and what an agreement would look like. Through a robust conversation, the Planning Committee gave consensus to staff to move forward with talks with the two food and beverage entities and secure a Letter of Intent.

**5. PENDING BUSINESS**

**5.A. Urban Forestry – Natural Urban Development – Draft Revision Review**

At Trustee Sierra's request, this item will be postponed to the next meeting.

**5.B. Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Through Peoria Southside – Moratorium Proposal**

Trustee Harant requested a response to the proposed CO2 pipeline by the Park District. *Please see Attachment B.* Executive Director Cahill stated that this is a topic that the District is still trying to learn more about and requested to please give staff until the end of the week to draft a response. Trustee Harant agreed.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**6.A. Morton Square and Logan Parks Grant Update**

Executive Director Cahill stated these agreements will go to the Board tomorrow for approval.

**6.B. Glen Oak Park Playground Update**

Becky Fredrickson stated that the two inclusive playground options have been released to the public, asking for their input/choice of the two. The survey will end April 21. Once results are compiled, another Inclusive Playground meeting will be held to discuss the results.

**6.C. Tribute and Memorial Gifts Information**

Executive Director Cahill stated you have been provided with a Tribute Memorials Procedure that is a long time coming and for your information. Staff saw that in the past, there was a really personalized process of working with donors that needed to change. It was difficult for both donors and staff to facilitate. As such, a specific and intentional set of procedures was developed that lets donors know what is possible.

**6.D. Potential Collaboration with City of Peoria**

This item will be postponed until President Johnson arrives to discuss with the Committee.

*Note: President Johnson arrived at 4:17 pm and this item was not discussed during the remaining of the meeting.*

**6.E. Grant Update**

Matt Freeman stated that staff has been talking about planting a fruit tree grove at possibly John Gwynn Park as it would be a great place to accommodate this. There is a grant that the District applied for which this type of planting may qualify.

**6.F. Knoxville Bridge Repairs**

Mike Friberg stated that the Knoxville bridge suffered some damage due to water and filtration. During normal routine inspection late last year, it was found there were cracks in some of the members and need repair. An engineer has been monitoring the bridge over the winter and currently while the District bids the repairs out. The bids were due yesterday. When a contractor is determined, it will go to the Board for approval so the repairs can start as soon as possible.

**6.G. Springdale Savanna Deed and Authority Agreement**

Executive Director Cahill stated that the deed is sitting with City of Peoria legal. Attorney Streeter reached out to them last week and she reached out to them again Friday, with no response yet. The Authority Agreement has been sent to City of Peoria and Mark Matuszak, with no response from either as of yet.

**6.H. Donovan Master Plan Revision**

At the next meeting, the drafting of the Donovan master plan will be placed under New Business.

**6.I. Green Bank and Illinois Finance Authority**

Executive Director Cahill stated that she still has not heard back on this but will continue to monitor.

**6.J. African American Hall of Fame**

A meeting with Rosemary McCullough will be scheduled.

**6.K. Donovan Sculpture Garden**

Executive Director Cahill stated there is no new progress. The District is still waiting to hear back from the group.

**6.L. Staff Recognition**

After 38 years of service, Mike Miller will be retiring effective Earth Day, April 22. The Committee thanked him for all of his years of amazing work, education and commitment to the District and the environmental issues facing us today.

**7. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

None given at this time.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 3:00 pm

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:40 pm, Vice President Covington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Trustee Harant and carried on unanimous voice vote.

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth  
Executive Assistant and Secretary to the Board



Date: April 7, 2023  
To: Peoria Park District Planning Committee  
From: Emily G. Cahill, Executive Director  
Re: Village of Peoria Heights, Illinois

After an inquiry received from Peoria Heights elected officials by our Board of Trustees, District staff has compiled the following information for the Planning Committee:

1. An overview of physical spaces in and adjacent to Peoria Heights that support Heights' residents, including a map showing access.
2. A rough overview of Heights' resident participation rates.
3. A review of District staffers' tour and recommendations of Heights' owned parks/playgrounds.

As part of this analysis, it should be honored and remembered that the Peoria Park District provides access locally to 65 miles of trails, nearly 9000 acres of greenspace over 54 different locations across the communities we support. We offer more than 3,000 programs and increase the vibrancy of the Greater Peoria area with our efforts. Property tax dollars are our only public support and they provide approximately 50% of the revenue needed to maintain our large system.

1.

**Residents:**

Village of Peoria Heights: 5,908

Peoria Park District: 121,492

Village population represents 4.8% of the total PPD population.

**Physical Space Overview:**

There are 396 acres of parkland lying within the boundaries of the Village.

The Village has a jurisdiction of only 1,569 acres.

So 25% of the land within the Village is park land.

PPD jurisdictional limits is 39,568 acres or 62 square miles.

The Village with 1,569 acres represents 3.9% of PPD's area.

There are 996 acres of PPD owned or managed land (managed land is bike trail and stadium park in this case) within ½ mile of the Village. That is 11% of PPD's total landholdings.

**Physical Spaces (see Exhibit A):**

Below are the parks and land in or near Peoria Heights owned/managed by the Peoria Park District that directly support Heights’ residents:

*Within Heights’ boundaries:*

- Section of the Rock Island Greenway and Illinois River Bluff Trail
- Endres Park
- Part of Grand View Drive
- Forest Park Nature Center
- Bielfeldt Park
- Margaret Rutherford Woods (177 acres)
- Forest Park Riverfront properties - Krause, Longshore, Firefighters (235 acres)

*Adjacent to Heights:*

- Stadium Park
- Grand View Drive Park
- Rock Island Greenway and Illinois River Bluff Trail
- Detweiller Park and Detweiller Park Riverside
- Glen Oak Park

2.

**Activity:**

Please note that this only includes activity registrations and anyone who would have purchased a pass. This does not include league registrations or rentals since we only capture information from either the manager or person making the rental and not the whole party.

2019

344 class registrations	72 pass purchases
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2021

179 class registrations	46 pass purchases
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2022

230 class registrations	74 punch card uses
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RiverPlex usage:	2021: 2469
Visits from 61616:	2022: 3280
2019: 6788	So far in 2023: 1875
2020: 2901	

3.

District review and recommendations of Heights-owned spaces: please see next page.





Date: March 1, 2023  
TO; Emily Cahill, Executive Director  
FROM: Becky Fredrickson, Superintendent of Planning  
Re: Peoria Heights Owned Parks & Playgrounds

In response to a request by representatives from Peoria Heights at a Peoria Park District Planning Committee meeting on September 6, 2022, Park District staff toured parks owned and operated by the Village led by Brandon Wisenburg on September 23, 2022. We were asked to look at the existing conditions of their parks as well as potential opportunities for cooperation and assistance on improvements and maintenance of the parks.

Brandon took staff to the following parks:

- Tower Park
- Wiley Park
- Lions Park
- Columbus Park
- Poplar Lane Park

As directed by the Planning Committee, staff has reviewed these locations and provides the following broad recommendations. Any further action or allocation/commitment of District resources beyond technical assistance will require Board of Trustee action.

With that, observations and suggestions for improvement are as follows:

Tower Park:

Peoria Heights is in the process of replacing existing equipment with new accessible equipment with the help of the fund-raising efforts of St. Thomas school.

Lions Park:

This park has a playground and shelter and is adjacent to the bike trail.

This park was fairly recently updated with new playground equipment and engineered wood fiber for accessibility reasons. However, there are no direct paved accessible paths linking the asphalt path through the park to the shelter or to the playground. Therefore, people with accessibility issues cannot get to the playground or to the shade structure.

Park staff would recommend installing two accessible paths from the asphalt path, one to the playground and one to the shelter.

Columbus Park:

This park is on a corner lot with a newer playground and engineered wood fiber and an older bench.

Park staff would recommend treating the engineered wood fiber for weeds and unwanted grass, ask the playground manufacturing rep for a site audit to make sure that the fall zones and slide exit areas are adequate, then add additional engineer wood fiber. Staff would also recommend replacing the bench and make it accessible to either the sidewalk or the playground with a short sidewalk or path.

#### Wiley Park:

It is a well-used neighborhood park fairly close to Tower Park, but has numerous safety and accessibility concerns. It is an older playground, in sand, with cobble rocks as the perimeter holding the sand in place. The fall zones are questionable and the swing set does not meet PDRMA standards.

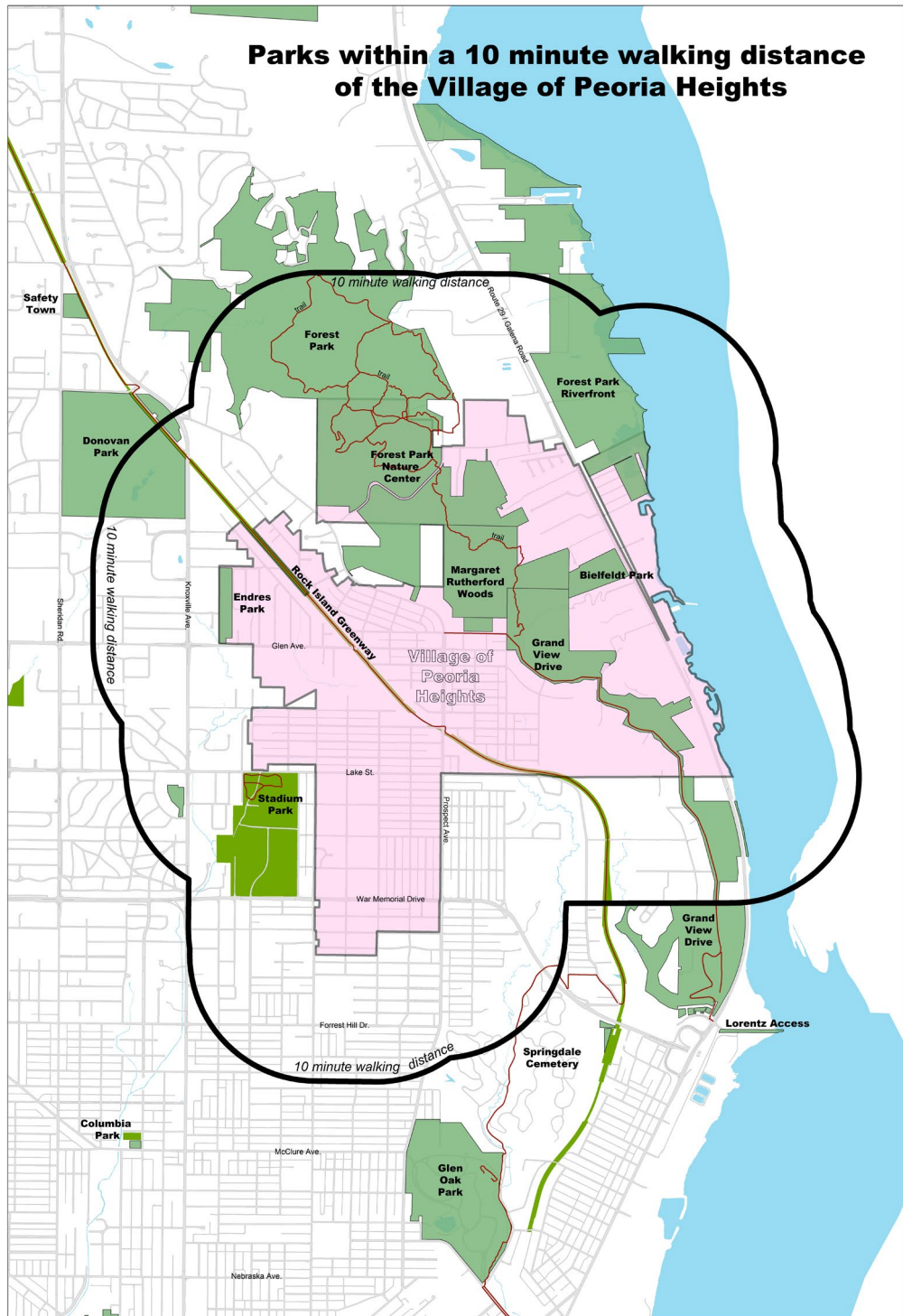
Staff would recommend complete removal and replacement of the elements in this park for safety and accessibility reasons.

#### Poplar Lane Park:

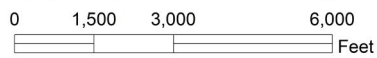
This park was installed using an IDNR grant in 2004. It is in the floodplain and due to flooding of the river, the original engineered wood fiber surfacing has been removed, and sand with a significant amount of grass and weeds is now the surfacing for the playground. Brandon mentioned the idea of moving the playground west toward the basketball court to try to keep it from flooding, but the estimated \$40,000 to move it was not in the budget.

Staff would recommend that when the IDNR requirements expire after 2024, that they get a cost to relocate the playground equipment to Wiley Park and put a poured in place rubber surfacing under it. The probable cost would be around \$120,000.

Exhibit A



4/5/2023



10 minute walking distance is defined in literature as 1 kilometer. This map uses a shorter 1/2 mile distance.



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### Regulatory and Knowledge Gaps in the Safe Transportation of Carbon Dioxide by Pipeline

This document is intended to provide an overview of federal regulatory and knowledge gaps related to the safe transport of carbon dioxide by pipeline. Following the CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline rupture in Satartia, MS in 2020 which sent 45 people to the hospital, the Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) commissioned a [report](#) to examine various aspects of carbon dioxide transmission pipeline safety and federal pipeline safety regulations related to CO<sub>2</sub>. The report identified numerous **regulatory gaps** outlined below.

1. The current definition of “carbon dioxide” in the federal pipeline safety regulation does not apply to all CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines that may be developed for CCS projects.
  - a. Currently, only CO<sub>2</sub> that is moved in a supercritical state is regulated under the current definition.
  - b. Federal regulations need to be modified to assure that federal standards apply to all CO<sub>2</sub> transmission pipelines that transport CO<sub>2</sub> in all phases, including supercritical, gas, and liquid CO<sub>2</sub>.
2. There is currently no defined safe distance or plume dispersion model for developing a potential impact area (PIR) along CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines.
  - a. CO<sub>2</sub> has unique physical properties which warrant the development of a unique PIR zone to be promulgated into federal pipeline regulation.
3. There is currently no requirement to add an odorant to transported CO<sub>2</sub>.
  - a. Carbon dioxide is odorless, colorless, doesn’t burn, and is heavier than air meaning that releases are harder to observe and therefore avoid.
  - b. Adding an odorant would help alert the public of a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline rupture.
4. The unique physical properties of CO<sub>2</sub> moved at high pressures through pipelines can cause running ductile fractures upon rupturing.
  - a. This essentially means that a pipe has a higher likelihood of opening up like a zipper when a rupture occurs, leading to more product being released over a shorter period of time and potentially violent and dangerous pipe shrapnel.
  - b. Fracture propagation protection, or fracture arresters, and steel thickness requirements should be carefully examined and incorporated into federal CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline design regulations.
5. Contaminants within CO<sub>2</sub> products being transported can jeopardize the integrity of the pipeline.
  - a. Water, when mixed with carbon dioxide, can form carbonic acid which has the ability to rapidly erode carbon steel.
  - b. Different industries can produce numerous other contaminants which can be toxic to public health and/or affect the temperature and pressure of the product, potentially impacting the safe operation of the pipeline.
  - c. Standards for maximum contaminant levels within different CO<sub>2</sub> producing industries should be reviewed and set by PHMSA in the federal pipeline safety regulations.
6. The risks associated with the conversion of existing transmission pipelines to CO<sub>2</sub> service have not been fully investigated.

- a. Given the unique properties of CO<sub>2</sub> mentioned previously, pipeline conversions have the potential to be at higher risk of failure from CO<sub>2</sub> service than conventional hydrocarbon or even new construction CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines.
- b. PHMSA needs to develop detailed safety standards for the conversion of existing lines to CO<sub>2</sub> service.

The incident in Satartia also prompted the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to initiate the funding of [new research and development \(R&D\) projects](#) related to the safe transportation of carbon dioxide through pipelines. These projects, titled *“Developing Design and Welding Requirements Including Material Testing and Qualification of New and Existing Pipelines for Transporting CO<sub>2</sub>”* will attempt to address many of the elements needing more research mentioned in the above regulatory gaps. The projects are intended to cover the following **knowledge gaps**:

1. The appropriate fracture toughness and steel pipe quality is currently unknown to prevent CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline leak or ruptures.
  - a. R&D project findings may be used to develop pipe quality standards and strategies for the correct placement of fracture mitigation measures along these pipelines.
2. The effects of corrosion, dents, cracks, or gouges have yet to be determined on a wide range of steel grades regarding CO<sub>2</sub> operation.
3. Odorization strategies have yet to be identified.
  - a. Odorization of CO<sub>2</sub> is likely one of the simplest ways to ensure effective leak detection as well as public safety and emergency response.
4. There is currently no defined safe distance or plume dispersion model for developing a potential impact area (PIR) along CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines.
  - a. Without a PIR, it is impossible to establish accurate emergency response safe distances. Due to the asphyxiation potential for CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines, this could have deadly consequences.
  - b. Only once an appropriate PIR for CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines has been established can PHMSA assess the effectiveness of integrity management procedures.
5. Results from these projects will not be available for two years and the funding provided to study these complex issues is relatively small.

In addition to these issues, PHMSA has directed the researchers of this project to “identify safety gaps and requirements to support best practices for both gaseous and supercritical liquid systems, beyond the requirements of 49 CFR Part 195 for CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline transportation.”

Considering the scope of this project, and the directive to look at CO<sub>2</sub> as both a gas and a liquid, it is clear that PHMSA is concerned not only with the under-regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines, but also with the current lack of technical knowledge which is needed to create appropriate minimum safety standards.

With a focus on reducing the impacts of climate change, the expansion of the 45Q tax credits, and now with the Inflation Reduction Act being signed into law, there has been a massive push for Carbon Capture Sequestration and Storage projects across the country. However, the regulatory and knowledge gaps outlined above make clear the need for caution moving forward.