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November 13, 2020

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Re: 167th Street Multi-Use Path Phase 1 Study Public Meeting Response to Comments

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Village of Orland Park appreciates the residents who attended the public informational meeting held virtually on October 8, 2020. 19 attendees (11 via Teams and 8 by phone) joined the virtual meeting where seven residents provided their comments. Following the meeting, three written comments were received by the Village prior to the end of the comment period (November 5, 2020).

The virtual meeting began with a welcome and introductions of the project team members. The presentation provided an overview of the Phase I Study limits and process, the project's purpose and need, the proposed improvements, a summary of the stakeholder involvements, and the anticipated project schedule. At the end of the presentation, there was ample time for a Questions & Answers session. For those who were not able to attend the meeting, the public meeting materials and video presentation can be found at the Village of Orland Park's website: <https://orlandpark.org/services/engineering-programs-and-services>

The comments associated with the proposed improvements focused primarily on the following topics. The Village offers the following responses and will be formally recorded in the Phase 1 Project Development Report:

Muirfield/Victoria Place Landscaping Elements

A couple of residents expressed concerns of impacts to landscape elements (i.e., irrigation systems, subdivision's structural signage/pillars, trees, and bushes).

Village Response:

- *The path improvements are not anticipated to impact landscaping elements on the south side of the existing sidewalk. The intent of the path design is to*

maintain the existing edge of sidewalk (where it exists) and widen to the north. During Phase II Design, notes to the Contractor could be added to the construction documents to ensure that if there is any damage to the landscaping elements intended to remain, that they be repaired/replaced in-kind at the Contractor's expense.

- *Due to the widened path, the irrigation heads located on the north side of the existing sidewalk will be impacted. During Phase II, notes to the Contractor will be added to the construction documents to modify the irrigation system accordingly. This work will be included as part of the project costs.*

Asphalt vs Concrete Path

A couple of residents expressed concerns related to the material of the new path. Residents expressed their concern for asphalt material due to the aesthetics and its inability to reflect heat due to its dark color.

Village Response:

- *Village's standard for a multi-use path is asphalt material.*
- *Within the project study limits, there are two existing asphalt path segments along the south side of 167th Street; one segment was installed as part of the Villas of Tallgrass Subdivision (just east of the railroad tracks) and another segment of path from Julie Ann Lane to 104th Avenue.*
- *The Village prefers asphalt over concrete as it maintains consistency of paving material and will be more cost effective.*

One resident inquired whether the existing sidewalk could remain in-place and only install new asphalt path at the gapped areas.

Village Response:

- *For maintenance and aesthetic purposes, the Village prefers continuity of material. Additionally, if the existing sidewalk does not currently meet ADA guidelines, it will need to be replaced.*

Concerned of Project being Stopped

A resident expressed concern that a neighbor could file a dispute to halt construction of the project due to impacts to the neighbor's property and inquired if this was true. Does the resident's neighbor have the power to stop the project?

Village Response:

- *At this time, it is difficult for the Village to provide an answer to the question.*
- *Due to the grading challenges located just east of Wolf Road, the Village has been in communication with the property owners due to the anticipated temporary construction easements necessary to accommodate the path.*
- *The Village has met with both the resident who provided the comment as well as their neighbor. As a result of those meetings, each property owner*

provided their specific property restoration requests they would like to be considered as part of the project improvements. The Village included this correspondence as part of the Phase I Report.

- *During Phase II, the Village and the Engineering Consultant will further evaluate any design changes necessary to mitigate impacts to the property owner and/or initiate land acquisition negotiations to come to a mutually acceptable agreement.*
- *If further evaluation of the design avoids the need for temporary easement from the property owner, the Village has a right (with Cook County Department of Transportation's permission) to build the new path within the public right-of-way. However, if an easement is necessary the Village will need the property owner's cooperation to accommodate the path.*

Existing Concrete Sidewalk Removal

A resident inquired the environmental impact of sidewalk removal.

Village Response:

- *Depending on the contractor, the existing sidewalk could get broken down and recycled for use as aggregate bases.*

Drainage Concerns

Three residents expressed their concerns of existing flooding in the area and that the widened path would exacerbate the problem. In particular, the area of concern is located at the south side of 167th Street, east of 108th Avenue.

Village Response:

- *The Village understands the drainage issues in this area. A regional drainage study and improvement plan is being developed by the Village and is separate from this path project.*

Concerns of encroachment onto homeowners property

A couple of residents inquired if there was a plan to address areas where there isn't sufficient room for a 12-ft wide path and if there would be encroachment onto the homeowners' property.

Village Response:

- *The multi-use path will be 8-feet wide with 2-foot grass shoulders on either side.*
- *As part of the Phase I Study, the preliminary design plans have identified anticipated impacts to adjacent properties within the project limits. Property owners were contacted where temporary construction easement is necessary to accommodate the construction of the new path.*

- *Where there is no temporary construction easement identified on the preliminary drawings, the path construction will be contained inside the public right-of-way and not encroach onto private property.*

Location of Path: North vs. South side of 167th Street

Three residents inquired whether there were considerations to provide the path along the north side of 167th Street.

Village Response:

As part of the preliminary engineering study, the Village/Consultant evaluated placement of the path on either the north or south side of 167th Street. The south side of 167th Street is the preferred location due to the following reasons:

- *Just east of Wolf Road, there are grading challenges on both sides of 167th Street due to steep embankment areas as well as a row of existing trees and vegetation.*
- *Additionally, at the segment between Wolf Road and Lee Street, the existing right-of-way (ROW) on the north side of 167th Street narrows by approximately 17-ft as compared to the south side. ROW acquisitions or permanent easements along each property along the north side would be required to accommodate a new path.*
 - o *If ROW is acquired, the land (and ownership) would be in the name of Cook County who will have full rights to the land. The property owner would lose that portion of their land.*
 - o *If a permanent easement is proposed, the underlying land ownership would remain with the property owner, but easement language will further specify that the County and/or the Village will have access within the easement boundary to modify the land for roadway, utility, grading, sidewalk/multi-use path, etc. use.*
- *Power poles are located along the north side of 167th Street and are expected to result in more utility impacts than the south.*
- *The proposed path location on the south side will connect existing segments of asphalt path located on the south side, between Muirfield Drive and 104th Avenue; and along the Villas of Tallgrass Subdivision, located just east of the railroad crossing.*
- *Locating the path on the south side provides direct access to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Orland Grasslands Trail located at the southeast corner of 167th Street and 104th Avenue.*
- *The logical destination points within the project limits will provide immediate connectivity between the existing Grasslands Subdivision west of Wolf Road to Orland Grasslands trail and avoid users from multiple street crossings across 167th Street.*

Safety

One resident expressed safety concerns of the project with widening the walkway north and closer to the road.

Village Response:

- *As part of the Phase I Study, traffic crash data for the last 5 years were compiled. There were no pedestrian related crashes reported.*
- *By providing a continuous off-street route for bicyclists and pedestrians, the possibility of accidents between vehicles and cyclists/pedestrians will be significantly reduced. A multi-use path will allow pedestrians and bicyclists to avoid using the paved shoulder and/or street.*

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)

A comment letter received by the Village had questions related to the ITEP funding application:

ITEP Ineligible Items – Routine maintenance and operation and Trail resurfacing (maintenance) – does this mean that the maintenance going forward would be Orland Park cost?

Village Response:

- *Yes, maintenance of the path will be the responsibility of the Village.*

Public benefits and accessibility: Can you provide information on how this project will benefit not only the community, but our affected properties?

Village Response:

- *Within the project limits, there are currently gaps of sidewalk located on either the north or south side of 167th Street. This project will provide a continuous multi-use path for pedestrians and/or bicyclists, including a designated ADA compliant crossing across the existing Metra Southwest Service line.*
- *As mentioned above, where there is no temporary construction easement identified on the preliminary drawings, the path construction will be contained inside the public right-of-way and not encroach onto private property.*
- *The Village has been in contact with the related homeowners located on the south side of 167th Street, just east of Wolf Road, due the grading challenges of the steep embankment resulting in a larger area of temporary construction easement.*

Project Support / Local Commitment – at this time, it appears that the affected properties do not / cannot support this project.

Village Response:

- *The four comments received that do not offer support for this project are primarily from properties located between 108th Avenue and Muirfield Drive.*
- *Within this segment, the new path is expected to be contained within the public right-of-way and will not encroach onto private property.*
- *The Village is committed to incorporating 'complete streets' elements to develop a multi-modal community for all users.*

If we are unable to procure that funding, will the cost fall to the residents/taxpayers of Orland Park?

Village Response:

- *If the ITEP grant is not awarded, the Village anticipates looking for other outside funding sources to fund the next phases of the project.*

A record of all public comments received within the comment period (by November 5, 2020) will be included in the Project Development Report for further consideration as part of the preparation of construction documents and land acquisition negotiations (Phase II). This project is currently in Phase I, which entails preliminary engineering and environmental studies. Upon completion of the Phase I study, a report will be prepared describing the proposed work and submitted to IDOT and CCDOTH for approval.

Sincerely,
Village of Orland Park



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