



PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

March 18, 2020

City of Highland Park

Clavey Road Improvements Project

Place: Virtual Meeting Conference Call (Covid-19 Order)

Time: 6:00 pm

The purpose of the public meeting was to provide and update on the status of the Clavey Road project and an opportunity for the public to ask questions. The presentation slides were available online and are attached to this summary.

1. Ghida Neukirch, City Manager, began the meeting with the following comments:

- The City is making every effort to keep employees and the public safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City is providing daily electronic newsletters regarding the City's actions.
- This public meeting is for information purposes only. The City has been working more than five years on this project. At the December Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting, the City promised to have the plans available for public review. Preliminary plans were submitted on February 28th and available online on March 3rd. The plans represent the City approved scope of the project.
- Tonight's meeting will provide status of the project and clarify questions.
- Why continue with this meeting in light of COVID-19? While this meeting format may not be ideal, deadlines need to be met to keep the Federal Grant.
- Presentation will be provided by Ramesh Kanapareddy, Public Works Director and Emmanuel Gomez, City Engineer and there will be an opportunity to ask questions via email.

2. Ramesh Kanapareddy, Director of Public Works, provided the following information:

- Why is this project being done?
 - The road and bridge is in fair condition. The City has looked at this project in totality. Instead of just new road and bridge, the City

will also be replacing water main, upsizing storm sewers and constructing an 8' multi-use path.

- Bike-Walk HP 2030 Plan has identified Clavey Road as a key route to provide connectivity from Skokie Valley Trail to Robert McClory Trail. The segment in this project is the first phase. The next two phases will involve connecting the path west to Skokie Valley Trail and then to the east to Robert McClory Trail.
 - Two-way traffic will be maintained during construction. There will be one lane at the bridge controlled with a traffic signal. First responders have requested that two-way traffic be provided so response times are not impacted.
 - There will be tree impacts. Most of the trees are less than 8" diameter or are in poor health. The trees have been evaluated by the City Forrester.
 - There will be landscape enhancements with trees, shrubs and grasses.
 - The crosswalks will be enhanced.
 - The grant will pay for 80% of the project with the exception of the water main which is funded by the City.
3. Emmanuel Gomez, City Engineer, continued with the following from the presentation slides:
- Provided an overview of the existing and proposed improvements.
 - Reviewed the project timeline.
 - Reviewed the Traffic Management Plan echoing many of the comments by Director Kanapareddy. Access will be maintained to entrances and intersecting streets.
 - Provided detailed information on tree impacts.
 - The 8' multi-use path will eventually provide connection between Skokie Valley and Robert McClory Bike Trails.
 - Crosswalk enhancements will be included by providing either pedestrian refuge islands or rapid flashing beacons.
 - Aesthetics will include:
 - Form liner on the bridge to provide a stone appearance.
 - Decorative railings where required.
 - Railings and guardrail will be brown.
 - Landscape enhancements will include sod, native seeding, shrubs and trees.

- Reviewed the estimated costs and a breakdown of key project elements.
4. Director Kanapareddy closed the presentation with the following:
- Prior to today the City has provided three public meetings on this project. This meeting via conference call is the fourth meeting. Letters have been sent to the public regarding the project, information is available on the City website, and information has been provided through social media and email blasts.
 - During construction there will be dedicated website to provide the status of the construction. Information will also be shared through social media, email blasts, and changeable message boards on the site.
 - Reviewed the schedule for the remainder of the project.
5. Mayor Nancy Rotering added the following:
- Two-way traffic is important for public safety.
 - Trees are important to the City. The tree impacts involve mostly small trees or ones that are in poor health identified by the City Forester.
6. Public Comments and Questions
- A conference call is not conducive to provide comments or concerns about a project. It is better to be able to review a concern on a sheet in front of someone.
- Response: At this stage of a project, it is unique for plans to be provided on the website. This meeting needed to continue to be able to maintain the schedule and not jeopardize the federal funding.
- We recognize that this meeting is not ideal, but it is not much different than the other meetings conducted for this project. The City has done its due diligence for tree protection having the City Forrester review and appraise the trees that will be removed.
 - A pavement stripe should be added to the path to separate the
 - You cannot please every person, but 90% of the concerns have been addressed. The Mayor, City Manager, Director and City Engineer have done a good job.
7. Email questions that were received during the meeting are detailed below:
- Q: Will the stoplight at the bridge be on a straight timer? Will that timer be able to be adjusted during times of high traffic? .ie. before Ravinia shows start going eastbound and after it lets out going westbound?
- A: The goal is to allocate time based on traffic volume. Cycles will vary based on demand. During events such as Ravinia a Traffic Management

Officer may be present to manually operate the signal. An Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) will also be used to give first responders priority.

- Q: As someone who lives west of the highway, were concerned about the access to the improvements on Clavey. The sidewalk over the bridge is narrow and lacks a barrier. We're excited about the plans but hope to be able to safely access the new pedestrian and bicycle path.

A: The Clavey Road multi-use path is Stage 1 of long-term goal to widen the connectivity between the two bike paths. The Rte 41 bridge belongs to IDOT and upon replacement or major repair, City will work with IDOT to add an 8-ft path on the bridge.

- Q: Will large truck (18 wheeler) traffic be allowed on Clavey Rd during the project?

A: A truck detour will be established. All heavy trucks who require a Highway permit will know of the bridge condition and permit will be approved. Speed limit will be reduced during construction traffic.

- Q: Can pedestrians / bicyclists use Clavey Rd safely during construction (temporary sidewalk)?

A: All attempts are being made to safely provide pedestrian and bicyclist access during construction. This includes separation of traffic with a barrier.

- Q: During construction which measurements are taken to control / limit traffic on Clavey Rd during sold out Ravinia events to avoid heavy congestions?

A: Signal times will be adjusted to accommodate the increase traffic or a Traffic Management Officer will be present to control the signal operation.

- Q: The renderings in tonight's presentation are not what's reflected in the design drawings.

A: That is because the plans provided on the website are only 60% complete. The final plans will detail what is portrayed in the renderings.

- Q: Refuge Island should be provided at cross walk at Fink Park entrance.

A: This option is being considered at this location.

- Q: Is City required to accept the lowest bid?

A: The bid will be managed by IDOT, not the City. Usually, IDOT does select lowest responsible bid. The key word is that the contractor must responsible which is defined in the bid documents.

- Q: Why haven't you done any traffic or pedestrian traffic studies?
A: These studies were done during the Phase I Preliminary Engineering. That report was approved by IDOT on November 19, 2018.
- Q: I think the bridge was replaced after the 60's - in the 80s maybe as we were living here beginning in 1977.
A: The bridge was originally constructed in 1950 and rehabilitated in 2002 which included new joints, new overlay and spot clean and paint the steel to extend the life of the bridge.
- Q: Why did you not have an open meeting right after the first of the year this year as we had been asking for months?
A: At the December 2019 Committee of The Whole (COTW) meeting, a public meeting attended by residents primarily by Aspen, Larkspur neighborhood, the City indicated that engineering plans will be provided for public comment. It was decided to conduct a meeting after the plans were made available.
- Q: Where will the sidewalk for pedestrian traffic be located? To north or south of temporary roadway? How close will this be to traffic?
A: Sidewalk or temporary sidewalk will be provided. The proximity of the traffic to pedestrians varies. A temporary concrete barrier will provide a physical separation when the walk is adjacent to the traffic.
- Q: When was the project approved by the City Council?
A: City Council reviews capital projects on an annual basis and prioritizes funding for the project. The Clavey Rd Improvements Project, after the award of the grant, was approved as part of 2015 Capital Improvement Program budget. Upon award of contract by IDOT, the contract will be forwarded to City Council for formal approval.
- Q: Please clarify what the design standard is for the railings on the bridge. March 18 agenda renderings describe and depict metal railing with vertical metal stiles; engineering drawings on sheet 153 show a chain link mesh inside a metal frame.
A: The plans provided on the website are only 60% complete. The plans currently detail the standard railing. Since that submittal, the City has finalized the decorative railing that was included in the renderings. The final plans will detail what is portrayed in the renderings.
- What is the typical road width for the existing roadway versus the planned reconstruction?
A: The current and new roadway widths are 12 feet.

- Are there any takings of private land to accommodate the road widening?
A: No. The road is not being widened.
- Why does the tree cutting count keep changing/increasing?
A: The counts provided at the meeting are the same presented at the COTW.
- When will the new landscaping plan be presented? Is that work included in project-related and approved funds? If approved, by whom and when?
A: The landscaping plan will not be presented to the public. It is being prepared with the supervision of the City Forester. The plan will include trees, shrubs, sod, and native seeding. Yes, the landscape plan will be funded and needs to be approved by IDOT. We anticipate preparation of plan during construction phase and seeking approvals from IDOT thereafter. The plan will be implemented upon completion of all construction work.
- Q: During construction, will adjacent streets be cleaned of construction debris? If so, is that included in the approved project budget?
A: The contractor will be responsible for keeping Clavey Road free of dirt, mud and construction debris.
- Q: Will traffic be slowed during construction?
A: The regulatory speed of Clavey Road will be reduced during construction.
- Q: Can the City provide a detailed drawing that indicates that the adjacent property lines for those how owner's whose lots front Clavey?
A: The drawing have been provided. The project does not extend beyond the public right of way.
- Q: Will the new bike/walk path be pitched so that runoff goes onto Clavey Road? current conditions are pitched into the property owners' yards
A: The multi-use path will be sloped towards the street.
- Q: Is the grant for \$8 mm or \$7 mm? The difference is not clarified.
A: The grant is \$10 mm with City contribution at 20%.
- Q: Do we need an ugly guard rail on the approach to the bridge?
A: Guard rail is required to be compliant with Federal requirements. The guard rail will be brown instead of normal galvanized steel.
- Will access Into Larkspur Drive or around from Aspen Lane always be available?

A: Every effort will be made to keep access available. There may be short day-time closures required. Notice of potential closures will be provided beforehand.

- Q: Please advise at the meeting call (or me by email) whether the curb and sidewalk in the north side of Clavey Road between Clavey Lane and the north exit of Rte 41 Highway will be removed and later replaced. I cannot tell from the drawings.

A: The sidewalk from Clavey Lane west to US 41 will not be removed and replaced during this project. The project limit is at the northbound exit ramp to Clavey Road.

- Q: Will the storm sewer up sizing improve flooding in the bridge/ Larkspur Dr. area?

A: The increase is intended to mitigate water on the roadway. It will not improve flooding issues outside of Clavey Road.

- Q: Slide 21 only shows total costs of \$6.9 mm. What's the rest allocated to?

A: This slide only shows key infrastructure improvements. It does not reflect all costs of the project such as maintaining traffic which includes temporary signals, temporary concrete barrier and temporary fencing; traffic signal improvements, and temporary soil and erosion control measures.