



Minutes  
 Village Re-Kickoff Meeting  
 Wolf Road Reconstruction Phase I Study  
 Village of Indian Head Park, Illinois  
 July 7, 2023, 9:30 A.M.

Invitee	Representing	Present	Absent
Amy Jo Wittenberg, Village President	Village of Indian Head Park (Village)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlie Eck, Village Trustee	Village of Indian Head Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andy Ferrini, Interim Village Administrator	Village of Indian Head Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tara Orbon, P.E., Assistant Superintendent	Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (County)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Katie Bell, P.E., Project Studies Manager	Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sanjay Joshi, P.E. Project Manager	Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keith Spencer, Vice President–Public Involvement	R.M. Chin & Associates, Inc. (R.M. Chin)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Caitlin Bettisworth, Senior Project Manager	R.M. Chin & Associates, Inc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alexandra Desrosiers, Project Manager	R.M. Chin & Associates, Inc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Darcie Gabrisko, P.E., Project Manager	Strand Associates, Inc. <sup>®</sup> (Engineer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matt Gazdziak, P.E., Project Engineer	Strand Associates, Inc. <sup>®</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tony Spinelli, P.E., CFM, Village Engineer	Strand Associates, Inc. <sup>®</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

An in-person meeting was held at Village Hall to re-kickoff the Wolf Road Reconstruction Phase I Study with the Village, County, R.M. Chin, and Engineer.

1. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves. The Village is the lead agency on the study, with Andy being the main point of contact for the Village. The County is partnering with the Village, having jurisdiction over Wolf Road, and providing funding support through an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village. Sanjay is the main point of contact for the County. Engineer is the Consultant Village Engineer and prime consultant on the project. Matt is the main point of contact for Engineer. R.M. Chin is a public involvement subconsultant to Engineer and will be leading that component of the study. Caitlin is the main point of contact for R.M. Chin.

2. Project History

Engineer provided an overview of the project history to date.

- a. Recent interest in the Wolf Road corridor began in 2018 when the Village applied for and was awarded a County Invest in Cook grant to evaluate the feasibility of pedestrian and/or bicycle accommodations along Wolf Road within the Village’s municipal limits, approximately 72nd Street to Plainfield Road.
- b. The Village’s Feasibility Study began in 2019. The scope of the study was to evaluate the feasibility of adding new sidewalk or shared-use path on the west side of Wolf Road between 72nd Street and Joliet Road, and on the east, west, or both sides of Wolf Road between Joliet and Plainfield Roads. The Feasibility Study process resulted in a determination that adding sidewalk and/or shared-use path along Wolf Road would be difficult without making corresponding improvements to Wolf Road, given that the sidewalk and/or shared-use path would involve regrading ditches, drainage improvements, potential land acquisition, intersection improvements, and bridge improvements. Therefore, it was concluded that the desired pedestrian and/or bicycle improvements could be better incorporated as part of a comprehensive Phase I Study that evaluated the needs of the Wolf Road corridor as a whole.

- c. The Wolf Road Phase I Study began in September 2020 with expanded limits from 79th Street to Plainfield Road, both of which are County routes. The new study limits expanded beyond the Village's municipal limits, incorporating portions of the Villages of Burr Ridge and Willow Springs and the City of Countryside. The Village remained the lead agency on the study. The study is a comprehensive evaluation of the corridor and includes review of pavement condition, bridges and structures, traffic operations, safety, drainage, and pedestrian and/or bicycle accommodations. The Phase I Study is locally funded by the County but follows the federal project development process so that it may remain eligible for potential federal funding opportunities for future phases. Following this process involves the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration. A key component of the federal project development process is to establish the project's purpose and need and then to develop alternatives that meet the project's purpose and need.
- d. Public Information Meeting (PIM) No. 1 was held in April 2022 to present the preliminary alternatives that had been developed. The meeting was very well attended by the public, and the study team received extensive feedback on the preliminary alternatives and study as a whole. Because of the amount and type of feedback received, the County agreed to support more robust public involvement activities for the remainder of the project, including the formation of a Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC).
- e. The Village, County, and Engineer negotiated an amendment to the original agreement and Intergovernmental Agreement to enhance the study's public involvement scope. This led to R.M. Chin joining the study team as a subconsultant to Engineer. The study team is now ready to re-kickoff the study to begin the more robust public involvement activities. The Village appreciates the County's continued investment in this study.

### 3. Public Involvement Overview and Next Steps

R.M. Chin provided an overview of the anticipated public involvement activities and deliverables, which include preparing a Public Involvement Plan, forming a CAC, launching a study-specific Web site, launching a public survey with an interactive mapping platform to capture feedback at specific locations, preparing study summary handouts, meeting with individual stakeholders, and hosting additional PIMs. Development of these deliverables will begin following this meeting. The following general items were discussed in the context of the public involvement activities.

- a. Many of the same public involvement activities and deliverables were used for the Plainfield Road Phase I Study, which is ongoing by the County and impacts the Village. R.M. Chin is also part of that study team.
- b. The portion of the Village that Wolf Road cuts through is different from and has different perspectives than the portion of the Village that Plainfield Road cuts through. Between Joliet and Plainfield Roads, the west side of Wolf Road is single-family homes. The east side of Wolf Road is condominiums and townhomes, which are part of homeowner's associations.
- c. The CAC will consist of a broad representation of stakeholders along the corridor, including the Village, County, Villages of Burr Ridge and Willow Springs, City of Countryside, IDOT, Illinois Tollway, residents, and school, fire protection, water reclamation, sanitary, and park districts. It was agreed that up to three residents would be on the CAC and would be selected through an application process reviewed by the Village, County, Engineer, and R.M. Chin. The remaining stakeholders will be contacted and asked to self-identify a representative from their

organization to serve on the CAC. The target for the total number of CAC members is approximately 25 individuals, with the understanding that not all members will be able to attend every meeting. The actual number of members at each meeting may be between 15 and 20 individuals. Those individuals not part of the CAC will still be able to provide feedback and input to the study team through the PIMs and other outreach activities.

- d. Three CAC meetings are anticipated. CAC Meeting No. 1 will discuss project goals, data collected to date, results of the public survey, and what additional alternatives the study team should consider, if any. CAC Meeting No. 2 will discuss the preliminary alternatives and provide a preview of PIM No. 2. CAC Meeting No. 3 will discuss the preferred alternative and provide a preview of PIM No. 3. Information to be presented at the PIMs will be presented to the CAC first to review clarity and conciseness for general public distribution.
- e. The CAC will provide its perspectives to help the study team better understand the needs of the corridor. The CAC will also serve as a link between its organizations and the study team, providing updates and soliciting feedback as necessary.
- f. It may not be possible to achieve consensus on the preferred alternative with the entirety of the CAC. The goal will be for the CAC to feel that it has the opportunity to provide input and understand the parameters of how decisions were made.
- g. The final recommendation on a preferred alternative for the corridor will be made by the Village and County while considering feedback from the CAC, public, and stakeholders.
- h. The decision to include or not include sidewalk and/or shared-use path ultimately is the Village's, as those elements will become the Village's maintenance responsibility after construction. If sidewalk and/or shared-use path are included in the preferred alternative, they will follow relevant design criteria and be to logical termini.
- i. The Ebenezer Pentecostal Church is a potential location for hosting public involvement activities.
- j. The Village can provide current contact information for its homeowner's associations. These can be used to efficiently share information with the portion of the Village that belongs to the various associations.

#### 4. Information Sharing

- a. The study Web site will be the central location for information regarding the study to help enhance transparency in the federal project development process that the study team is working through. Updates will be provided on the Web site at least quarterly. The Village's study Web page will be updated with a link to the new study Web site once it is launched.
- b. The Village has a large number of residents who prefer printed materials instead of electronic materials. Accommodations will be made for those residents to not exclude them from the public involvement process. Hard copies of materials will be made available at Village Hall.



5. Open Forum

- a. There are many potential funding opportunities and sources for future phases of the Wolf Road project. In general, multi-modal projects score better in application evaluation criteria and may be more likely to receive funding.
- b. The Central Council of Mayors provided funding to the Village for a drainage evaluation in the Osceola neighborhood, which has stormwater that flows to Joliet Road. The Village will provide information regarding this to the County and Engineer.
- c. Drainage along and surrounding Wolf Road remains a concern and priority for the Village, as there have been drainage problems for more than 30 years. The Wolf Road study will include drainage improvements, but those will only focus on issues within the corridor and not elements outside the scope of the project. This will be conveyed as part of the public involvement activities.
- d. Improvements along Wolf Road leading to an increase in truck traffic is of high concern to the Village and its residents.
- e. A portion of school children in the Village do not have bus access to get to school and instead walk. Pedestrian accommodations should focus on improving their access.
- f. The 1.5-mile shared-use path along Brainard Avenue (in the City of Countryside) has 42 warning, regulatory, or information signs. Public feedback has been received stating that type of shared-use path is not desired along Wolf Road.
- g. It is anticipated that many public comments received will continue to focus on the landscaping and trees along the corridor. The existing trees and shrubs provide screening between Wolf Road and homes. There are many mature trees along the corridor.
- h. The Village has evaluated the impacts of placing a sidewalk and/or shared-use path on the west side of Wolf Road in regard to the number of driveways and entrances it would intersect. This information will be provided to the County and Engineer

6. Next Meeting

Project Progress Meetings will be restarted. These virtual meetings will continue to be held monthly via Microsoft Teams, typically on the first Monday of the month, unless conflicts necessitate the meeting to be rescheduled. The Monthly Progress Meeting for August will be held on August 7, 2023, at 2 P.M. via Microsoft Teams.

If there are any additions or comments, please call 815-744-4200 ext. 3124.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by Matthew J. Gazdziak, P.E.

c: All Participants