



Letter Sent 3/17/2025

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**Katie Bell**

Associate Director, Project Development  
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways  
69 W. Washington St., 24th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602

**Subject: Village of Indian Head Park's Preferred Option for Wolf Road Redesign**

Dear Katie,

On behalf of the Village of Indian Head Park, we appreciate the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways' (DoTH) commitment to transparency and collaboration in the Wolf Road redesign process. The Public Information Plan (PIP) and Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) have provided valuable opportunities for community input, and we look forward to continued engagement as the project advances.

After extensive public feedback and analysis, the Village has selected **Alternative 1: Baseline Sidewalk** as the preferred option for Wolf Road improvements. This choice reflects its minimal footprint, reduced impact on adjacent properties, and alignment with resident and homeowner association preferences. A sidewalk on the west side of Wolf Road will significantly improve pedestrian safety, particularly for students walking to Highlands District 106 and Pleasantdale District 107 schools.

While this selection addresses immediate needs, the Village remains committed to a long-term vision for Wolf Road that prioritizes safety, sustainability, and aesthetics. As the project progresses, we seek County support in exploring the following enhancements:

- **Landscaping & Hardscaping:** The Village values green space preservation and requests thoughtful integration of trees, berms, roadway islands, and architectural fencing to maintain the area's natural character. We would also like to discuss the details of Cook County's tree replacement policy.
- **Truck Safety & Speed Limit Reductions:** We are evaluating the introduction of a dedicated truck safety officer and request collaboration with County officials to assess reduced speed limits along Wolf Road for enhanced safety.

- **Grant & Funding Opportunities:** Continued exploration of state and federal funding sources to support infrastructure improvements while minimizing financial impact on the Village.
- **Underground Utility Feasibility:** Analysis of the potential to bury electric lines along the corridor to improve aesthetics and storm resilience.
- **Narrow Lane Designs:** Implementing “skinny lanes,” a traffic-calming strategy recommended by a 2023 Johns Hopkins University study, can naturally reduce vehicle speeds, improve safety, and minimize environmental impact by preserving more green space.
- **Crosswalk Safety Enhancements:** We request collaboration with Cook County to incorporate high-visibility crosswalk markings, pedestrian refuge islands where feasible, and potential signalized or flashing beacon crossings at high-traffic areas. These improvements will significantly enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility for all residents.

The Village values its partnership with Cook County and appreciates its efforts to ensure Wolf Road improvements align with our community’s needs. We look forward to continued collaboration and welcome opportunities to provide input on design elements as the project moves forward. Please let us know how we can best support the next steps.

Sincerely,



Amy Jo Wittenberg - Village President  
Village of Indian Head Park

Cc: Trustee Charles Eck, Matt Gazdiak, Gavin Morgan