

AGENDA
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
Village of Hoffman Estates
February 26, 2018

Immediately Following Public Health & Safety

Members:	Karen Mills, Chairman	Anna Newell, Trustee
	Gary Stanton, Vice Chairman	Gary Pilafas, Trustee
	Karen Arnet, Trustee	Michael Gaeta, Trustee
		William McLeod, Mayor

I. Roll Call

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of options for *Invest in Cook* grant program.

II. Adjournment

**COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM
VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES**

SUBJECT: Discussion of options for *Invest in Cook* grant program

MEETING DATE: February 26, 2018

COMMITTEE: Special Transportation and Road Improvement Committee

FROM: Michael Hankey

PURPOSE: Information is presented on various options which could be considered for the *Invest in Cook* grant program.

BACKGROUND: The current cycle of the *Invest in Cook* grant program offered by the County is open through March 16. Program details are provided below along with a summary of the potential projects and the recommended application.

This is the second year of what the County expects to be an ongoing annual grant program. A total of about \$8.5 million is available for all of Cook County. The program goals which need to be the focus of applications are:

- a. Prioritize Transit and Other Transportation Alternatives
- b. Support the Region's Role as North America's Freight Capital
- c. Promote Equal Access to Opportunities
- d. Maintain and Modernize What Already Exists
- e. Increase Investments in Transportation

Applications that meet more of these criteria are likely to receive higher ratings. Last year 30 projects were selected from over 100 applications with the total requested funds exceeding \$40 million. Most proposals were either in the bicycle / pedestrian area or roadway maintenance. The County desires to have a balance of project types and geographic locations.

Only one application is allowed per agency and can generally be for only one phase of a project (feasibility, engineering, or construction). Asking for engineering and construction funding assistance spread over several years will not be considered. Preference will be given to projects on non-County routes although if the proposal is to add features to a County road which meet the program criteria it will be considered. *Invest in Cook* is intended to help local agencies close funding gaps that will allow a project phase to move forward. The more funding the local agency is willing to commit, the more favorably the application will be viewed.

DISCUSSION:

The following presents a brief summary of several different options which were considered:

1. Beverly Road Bicycle Path / Road Resurfacing – Phase I Engineering

Recommended project to submit for 2018 Call for Projects

A bicycle link on Beverly Road crossing the Tollway is part of the Village's Comprehensive Bicycle Plan. During the public input used to develop the plan, the lack of ways to easily cross the Tollway was a frequent concern. Beverly Road is the one remaining roadway crossing of the Tollway where bicycle accommodations could be installed. Phase I engineering will assess off-street path, on shoulder use, or a combination of treatments along Beverly Road from Beacon Pointe Drive to Prairie Stone Parkway. Beverly Road is also in need of resurfacing and is included within the scope of the Phase I engineering. A consultant will be needed to complete Phase I according to all Federal and State requirements. Adhering to these processes will position the project to compete for federal funding of future phases. Phase I is estimated at about \$75,000 with 80% to be requested through the *Invest in Cook* program.

2. Huntington Boulevard Right of Way Bicycle Path – Phase I Engineering

This was the project submitted in response to the 2017 call but was not selected. It remains a good concept but it would be desirable to pursue other project ideas with this call. The limits are from Golf Road to Higgins Road then west along the south right of way of Higgins to Volid Drive. The path connection in the vacant Huntington right of way is part of the Village' Bicycle Plan. Coordination with the Park District, adjacent property owners, and bicyclists in the area would be beneficial before pursuing future grant opportunities.

3. Park-n-Ride / Kiss-n-Ride Enhancements

This concept was identified last year as a potential candidate to submit for *Invest in Cook*. The scope of the project could possibly include improved pedestrians connections on local streets, widened areas for parking on Pembroke, improved and expanded bicycle parking on the sites, pedestrian lighting, wayfinding signage, and other means to improve the transit connections. As the I-90 express bus services are expected to begin this year, this would be a good candidate for a future call for projects after gaining some operational experience to define needs. Coordination with Pace will also be required depending on the project components.

4. Sub-regional Transit Service Coordination and Expansion - Feasibility Study

Existing transportation services operated by local communities and townships help address a number of mobility needs but many programs are limited in eligibility and area coverage. Pace bus services offer more regional connectivity and when complemented by ADA paratransit can extend the reach of transit. This feasibility study would seek to create a pilot program within communities surrounding Hoffman Estates with the goal of expanding local mobility across jurisdictional boundaries. The area could be overlaid with new services, implement improved coordination of existing options, and apply technology to improve efficiencies. Substantial coordination with communities, townships, social service agencies, Pace, private transportation providers, and others is needed. Cook County is starting development of a county wide transit plan this year. Introducing an effort like this through the County's program is felt to be a better fit than the *Invest in Cook*

DISCUSSION: (Continued)

grant. Village staff has submitted this concept in the past as part of various planning efforts in the region and had identified it last year as a potential candidate for *Invest in Cook*.

5. Central Road Bicycle Path – Phase II Engineering

The Village is currently partnering with Cook County for preliminary design of a bike path on Central Road between Barrington Road and Huntington Boulevard to create a connection to the Pace Park-n-Ride. The path is a component of a County project to reconstruct and resurface Central Road. This design is currently in Phase I with the Village funding the work for the path. The *Invest in Cook* application would continue Phase II engineering for the path design to allow the project to move into construction; however, the timing for the County's completion of Phase I may not align with this cycle of the call for projects. Given some recent development interest for properties fronting Central Road, there may be an opportunity to have sections of this path alignment constructed by the developer with their site work as was the case with the Trumpf and DMG Mori sites. Depending on these factors, the scope of the grant application could be reduced considerably. The project should remain a candidate for a future grant application through *Invest in Cook* or a federal program.

Next Steps

The staff recommendation is to prepare and submit an application for the Beverly Road project's Phase I engineering. It is best positioned at this time given some of the questions associated with the other options. The Beverly Road project addresses the grant program goals of leveraging transportation investment, maintaining infrastructure, and promoting alternative transportation modes. Applications for this grant cycle are due on March 16, 2018. County staff will then review all applications received with a recommendation expected by the County Board sometime in mid to late summer. An intergovernmental agreement would be required for successful applications which puts the likely timing for starting a project in early 2019. Consultant selection could occur concurrently with the IGA review and approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If selected, an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County will be required. A consultant will also need to be selected through the Request for Qualifications process. No funds will be needed until 2019. The request will be for 80% funding through *Invest in Cook* leaving a local share of 20%. Based on the estimated Phase I cost of \$75,000, the Village cost would be about \$15,000 next year. Being selected for funding does not commit the Village to anything other than completing the proposed scope included in the grant application. The local share would be part of the 2019 budget planning.

RECOMMENDATION:

Request approval to submit an application for the *Invest in Cook* grant program for the Beverly Road project.