



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. Present at this meeting were Chairman Rees, Commissioner Hoyt, Commissioner Karrow, Commissioner Osga, & Commissioner Chase

Chairman Rees asks Jack Bielak, Director of Public Works & Engineering, to provide update on projects.

Director Jack Bielak mentioned the Harlem Viaduct project. Currently updated traffic and engineering information. The next step is to coordinate meetings with CTA, Union Pacific and IDOT. He made it clear with the consultant that he would like to be included in these meetings. We are in Phase 1 process.

Des Plaines River Trail project is ongoing. We had our open house in October of last year which was well attended. Consultant provided submittals to IDOT geometrics and IDOT traffic to get approvals for Phase 1 project development report.

Comments were received in mid-August in which I had a meeting with the consultant at the beginning of September to go over comments IDOT submitted. They were minor but there were items that need to be addressed. We did send them back to IDOT for approval.

We applied for a General Transportation Grant that came from IDOT. Once we have the Phase 1 project development report, we can move on to Phase 2. As a reminder, the Des Plaines River Trail is a multi-jurisdictional project which stretches to Park Ridge and further. We are of the pieces and Rosemont is the lead agency, but this part of the trail is in River Forest.

Lake Street design proposal for the four intersections, Edgewood, Franklin, Jackson and William, was submitted to IDOT for feedback to see if they would approve. Edgewood and Franklin seem to be straightforward. Curb extensions at Edgewood and Franklin looking at the use of a RRFB due to the school. We are working on the considerations for Jackson and William due to truck traffic and addressing IDOT's concerns.

On October 10th, we are going to apply for a Grant for the Safe Routes to School through IDOT. We are applying Edgewood and Franklin as they are close to the school and are good candidates for this.

We have been coordinating with the school to obtain letters of support. We are hopeful of obtaining money for construction of improvements at these two intersections.

We had a lot of issues with the signal at Lake and Lathrop during the summer, which failed a number of times. It was determined that the traffic control box had to be replaced. We currently have an emergency box there from our contractor. None of the detector loops are on sensors; they are on timing. We will receive the brand-new box in the next couple weeks. We do have an agreement with IDOT where they are paying half the cost of the new traffic control box.

For Washington Boulevard, we received Board approval for Phase 1 Engineering. We had our kickoff meeting with Primera who is the Phase 1 consultant for this project. We are looking to do our first open house for Washington Boulevard in the first week of November. Once we nail down a date, we will be sending postcards to the community and a letter to everyone south of Hawthorne. Depending on weather, we might have this open house outside by the park where there are lights. Otherwise, it will be held in the Public Works garage.

Cook County is also paying for approximately half of the Phase 1 engineering through a grant funding. The exact numbers are on the website.

In the next few weeks, EV Charging Stations will be installed behind the CVS lot which is owned by the Village. They will be receiving DC Fast chargers, by the Metra Station and the Franklin lot, they will be receiving Level 2 chargers.

As part of the design process we went through, we changed our Ordinance to start charging per kilowatt hour, whatever the standard fee is. We looked at Elmwood Park, Oak Park and other communities to compare their fees so we can recoup the cost of electricity and put money aside for future maintenance required for these facilities.

Next, we have the Village Hall Permeable Paver Project. We are going to do what we did with alleys and all-around Village Hall. (concrete with pavers) We received \$160,000 from MWRD. They are also paying for the soil borings. We just submitted our 30% plans, received comments back from MWRD and are working through the design which will be completed in this physical year, be out to bid and start construction next year.

For the Franklin/Keystone Water Main projects, we are replacing the water main on Franklin between Madison and Washington. We are currently in design and eventually are going to have an open house for those two blocks as this is an easier way to let the residents know what is happening and how significant this work will be as we will trench down Franklin to install this new water main along with new service lines as needed due to IPEA requirements.

To save money, we are combining two projects to be designed concurrently as a lot of the cost is mobilization to getting guys out there. This way they get all their surveys at one time and then provide us with two separate bid packages. We will start Franklin after May 1st and Keystone the second year after.

For the PW Solar Project, we are in the process of obtaining proposals for putting solar panels on top of Public Works. The intent, based on preliminary discussions with a few consultants, we can make that facility net zero. The solar panels will power the facility and potentially we will be able to sell back power. We want to do this before federal tax credits go away. We want to make sure we comply to obtain our reimbursement.

Director Bielak asks the commission if they have any questions regarding any of the projects.

Commissioner Hoyt inquires about all the Grants.

Director Bielak talks about how we obtain Grant Fundings.

Chairman Rees turns over to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident, Oliva Denton, 7614 Washington Boulevard, discusses her concerns about safety issues regarding her area.

Chairman Rees asks if she was there when Director Bielak talked about the open house on Washington?

Director Bielak reiterates the Washington Boulevard project.

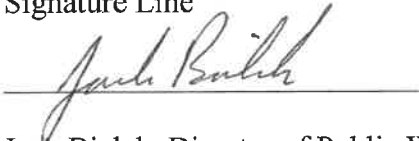
Commissioner Osga talks about how the Village obtains money from Grants.

Chairman Rees if we should make a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Karrow makes a motion and Commissioner Hoyt seconds the motion.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line



Jack Bielak, Director of Public Works & Engineering



Doug Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: 11.19.25