



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

September 28, 2026

Mr. Lundy,

The Village is in receipt of your September 14 letter offering to attend a Village Board meeting in October, share more information about the proposed O'Hare Flyer, and answer questions from both our Village Board and community members.

Our Board appreciates the offer; however, we recommend including all communities along the proposed route and holding the meeting in a central location. Village staff will work with you and a regional council of governments to schedule such a meeting. This approach ensures that all residents, institutions, and stakeholders receive the same information and have an equal opportunity to participate. As evidenced by letters from Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico and Cook County Commissioner Maggie Trevor, this is a regional concern, not simply a River Forest one.

When you appear before the members of our communities we expect to see specific diagrams and planning documents that provide extensive details about the project. We also expect to hear extensive details for:

- Plans for comprehensive impact studies on noise, health, and drainage
- Plans for a comprehensive environmental review, including but not limited to the impact on wildlife in Thatcher Woods and trees adjacent to the tracks.
- Plans to address safety issues, especially at the grade crossings located on Madison Street, First Avenue and Fifth Avenue
- Expected traffic impact for Madison Street, First Avenue, Fifth Avenue and the wider Village impact, including priority routes like access to Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Trauma Center
- Proposed safety, noise, environmental, aesthetic and quality of life plans for the 200 homes located 50 feet from the tracks
- Impact on property values for not only the closest homes, but for the more than 700 nearby homes to the tracks

We have attached a detailed list of questions, and expect your firm to be able to address these before or during a community presentation. If you believe in collaboration, it is important you answer these questions and share any plan documents and proposals with us and our residents. Presentations should also include handouts with information for residents.

As you know, on Monday, September 14, the River Forest Village Board unanimously approved a resolution opposing the O'Hare Flyer project. I have attached the resolution to

Village President
Catherine Adduci

Village Clerk
Rosa Castellano

Village Trustees
Erika Bachner
Kathleen Brennan
Lisa Gillis
Megan Keskitalo
Robert O'Connell
Respicio F. Vazquez

this letter for your review. The resolution details the concerns shared by hundreds of residents and commits the Village to taking additional steps to formally object to the proposal if it proceeds.

River Forest Village Administrator Matt Walsh will reach out to coordinate details of the regional meeting with your team.

Our entire community looks forward to hearing much more,

Sincerely,

River Forest Village Board of Trustees
Village President Cathy Adduci
Village Clerk Rosa Castellano
Trustee Erika Bachner
Trustee Kathleen Brennan
Trustee Lisa Gillis
Trustee Megan Keskitalo
Trustee Robert O'Connell
Trustee Respicio Vazquez

CC: Matt Walsh, Village Administrator

Questions for the O'Hare Flyer Project Team

Part A — Project Understanding

Ownership, Financing, and Risk

- A-1** Identify the principals, equity investors, and lenders in O'Hare Flyer LLC and any affiliated entities.
- A-2** Will the project seek any public funding, state or federal grants or loans, tax-exempt financing, tax increment, or public guarantees of any kind? If so, from which sources and in what amounts?
- A-3** What is the estimated capital cost, and what share is attributable to work within River Forest?
- A-4** If the service is suspended or fails financially, who will own, maintain, or remove structures built in River Forest? Will the project post a decommissioning or performance bond payable to the Village?
- A-5** What insurance and indemnification will the project provide to the Village and to adjacent property owners?

Legal Authority and Regulatory Pathway

- A-6** List every federal, state, regional, and local approval the project requires (for example, Surface Transportation Board, Federal Railroad Administration, IDOT, Illinois Commerce Commission, Forest Preserve District of Cook County), and the current status of each.
- A-7** Is the project seeking state legislation? If so, please provide any draft language. Specifically, will the project seek eminent domain or quick-take authority, or preemption of municipal zoning, permitting, or land-use authority?
- A-8** Does the project have, or expect, a federal nexus that would trigger review under the National Environmental Policy Act? Will the project prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment, and when would scoping begin?
- A-9** What role, if any, does the project expect the Village to have in approvals, permits, or agreements?

Host Railroads and Right-of-Way

- A-10** Who owns each segment of the right-of-way through River Forest?
- A-11** What is the status of negotiations with each host railroad? Is the project pursuing trackage rights, purchase, lease, or construction of new parallel track?
- A-12** Will the project change the volume, timing, speed, or type of freight traffic through River Forest, including hazardous materials shipments?

Demand, Alternatives, and Local Benefit

- A-13** Provide the ridership forecast, fare assumptions, and the methodology used. Has the forecast been independently reviewed?
- A-14** What alternative alignments and technologies were evaluated and why were they rejected?

- A-15** Will there be any station, service, or other direct benefit to River Forest residents?
- A-16** Is the project willing to enter into a host-community or community benefits agreement with the Village, including reimbursement of Village review and oversight costs?

Schedule and Public Engagement

- A-17** Provide the project schedule, including design, environmental review, financing, construction start, and revenue service dates.
- A-18** Describe the public engagement plan. Will the project hold public meetings in River Forest, and when will materials presented be made publicly available?

Part B — Technical Questions

Alignment and Structures

- B-1** Provide plan-and-profile drawings for the full alignment within River Forest, from Madison Street to the Des Plaines River.
- B-2** Identify every segment that would be elevated, depressed, or at grade. For elevated segments, state whether the structure is an open viaduct or retained fill, and give its height, width, and footprint.
- B-3** Will the project require any property acquisition, easements, or temporary construction easements in River Forest? Please identify affected parcels.
- B-4** Describe any bridge reconstruction required, including the crossing of the Union Pacific line and the Des Plaines River crossing.
- B-5** Provide renderings from residential vantage points (not only aerial views), including sound walls, lighting, and fencing.

Grade Crossings and Traffic

- B-6** List every at-grade crossing in River Forest and state, for each, whether it would remain at grade or be grade-separated. Is grade separation committed and funded, or only proposed?
- B-7** For each crossing that remains at grade, provide the gate-down time per Flyer train and the total combined Flyer and freight gate-down minutes during the peak hour.
- B-8** Provide a traffic impact analysis for crossing streets and nearby intersections, including queuing and effects on local and regional north-south travel.
- B-9** Will a quiet zone be established under the FRA Train Horn Rule? Who would fund the required supplementary safety measures?

Emergency Response

- B-10** Provide modeled fire, police, and EMS response times across the rail line, with and without the project, including access to area hospitals.
- B-11** How will the project coordinate with River Forest and mutual-aid emergency providers during both construction and operation?

Operations

Please note the Village is asking about operations for both passenger and freight trains along the proposed route.

- B-12** At 15-minute service in each direction from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., the Village estimates roughly 144 passenger train passes per day through River Forest. Please confirm or correct this figure, including any non-revenue, maintenance, or overnight movements.
- B-13** What is the maximum operating speed through River Forest, and does it vary by segment?
- B-14** What are the passenger train lengths, contingency, and weekend or holiday service plans? What are the lengths, power source, noise level, vibration level for freight trains using the tracks?
- B-15** Where will passenger trains be stored, maintained, and charged? Where will freight trains be stored, maintained, and charged?

Noise and Vibration

- B-16** Will noise and vibration be assessed using the FTA Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual? Will baseline measurements be taken at River Forest residences before design proceeds?
- B-17** Provide predicted noise levels at the nearest residences for both airborne noise (including wheel-rail and aerodynamic noise at operating speed) and structure-borne noise from elevated segments.
- B-18** Provide predicted ground-borne vibration levels at nearby foundations, and the criteria used.
- B-19** Which mitigation measures (sound walls, continuously welded rail, resilient fasteners, ballast mats, operating limits) are committed, and which are only under consideration?

Vehicle Technology and Safety

- B-20** Identify the specific battery-electric vehicle proposed. Is it currently in revenue service in North America, and under what FRA compliance pathway?
- B-21** If trains will share track or corridor with freight, how will crashworthiness requirements be met?
- B-22** What are the fire risks associated with the lithium-ion battery system, and what thermal-runaway response protocols, training, and equipment will be provided to the River Forest Fire Department?
- B-23** Describe positive train control, fencing, anti-trespass, and pedestrian safety measures, particularly near schools, parks, and residential blocks.

Environment — Thatcher Woods and the Des Plaines River

- B-24** How many trees would be removed within Thatcher Woods and elsewhere in River Forest? What is the replacement plan?
- B-25** What are the anticipated impacts on wildlife, habitat, and the Des Plaines River, including floodplain and wetlands? What permits are required?
- B-26** Has the project consulted the Forest Preserve District of Cook County? If a federal nexus exists, how will Section 4(f) protections for parkland be addressed?
- B-27** How will stormwater runoff from new or elevated structures be managed?

Village Fiscal Impact

- B-28** Will the project reimburse the Village for staff time, independent consultant review, and legal costs associated with evaluating the proposal?
- B-29** Who will be responsible for long-term maintenance of structures, landscaping, lighting, drainage, and graffiti removal within the Village?
- B-30** Has the project assessed potential effects on nearby property values? If so, please provide the analysis.

Documents Requested

- Plan-and-profile drawings and typical sections for the River Forest segment
- Ridership and revenue forecasts, with methodology
- Any noise, vibration, traffic, or environmental studies completed to date
- Term sheets or summaries of host railroad agreements, to the extent they can be shared
- Any draft state or federal legislation related to the project
- The project's public engagement plan