Application Number: 49

Project Title: Flossmoor Local Road Safety Plan

Applicant: Village of Flossmoor

Project Description:

Central Business District Roadway, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements

The Phase 1 Engineering is currently underway for this project and is partially being funded by an Invest in Cook Grant from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways.

The outcome of this project will be a sub-area plan that will help guide the overall project plan and layout for potential intersection geometry improvement of the traffic circle, pedestrian & bicycle facilities, pedestrian gathering areas, the surrounding landscape, open space and gateway features. While the impetus of this project was originally traditional streetscape improvements, a more serious need arose after two instances when pedestrians were endangered by traffic in a less than ideal traffic pattern around the traffic circle. Temporary pedestrian/traffic improvements were made to immediately improve safety features but with a longer term goal to create permanent traffic and pedestrian safety enhancements that are also aesthetically pleasing. The traffic circle is a focal point of the central business district. It is intersected by a crosswalk which is used by commuters, visitors to the downtown and school children walking to and from Parker Junior High School, Western Avenue School and the Flossmoor Public Library. When the Village made the temporary improvements, feedback was mixed with some relieved that the improvements were made and others upset by the aesthetic changes to the downtown. For all of these reasons, there will be significant interest and public comment on the project which will be impactful on the project’s success.

Another goal of this project is to create more public gathering space in the downtown area to support events and retain the commuter and customer population in the downtown area. To meet this objective, improving roadway and pedestrian safety becomes more critical.

Additional green space and green infrastructure to combat urban flooding is another objective of this project. The Village is studying and pursuing additional stormwater management in this area but exploring green streets may be another feature to combat flooding and increase the effects of climate resiliency for our local economy. The impact of urban flooding in this area has had significant impact on small business owners over the years, some of whom are minority and women owned businesses.

The Village hopes that this project will result in a more welcoming and user-friendly downtown area, attract new transit Metra riders, prioritize and attract new pedestrian and bicycle patrons, and promote opportunities for new and sustainable businesses in our Central Business District.

Within this plan, the Village hopes to address traffic configuration, pedestrian access and infrastructure needs. The project supports the Go to 2050 principle of inclusive growth and the RTA’s Invest in Transit.

Project Location: This project is located in Flossmoor’s Central Business District, which is centered on the intersection of Park Drive/Sterling Avenue/Central Drive. This area is home to the Flossmoor Metra Station, Flossmoor Public Library, US Post Office, and local small businesses and restaurants in historically significant buildings.