



Engineering  
Department

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December 11, 2012

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
2333 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Reference: Skokie Valley Trail - Dempster Street to Lake Cook Road

Attention: Mr. Thomas Rickert, Chairman, Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

Dear Mr. Rickert:

The Villages of Northbrook, Northfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Wilmette and Skokie and County of Lake (Skokie Valley Trail Committee) respectfully request that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force consider the Skokie Valley Trail to have regional significance and be eligible for Phase I Engineering related to the upcoming CMAQ FY 2014-2018 call for projects. Please add this as an agenda item at your December 19, 2012 meeting. We will have a representative at the meeting to answer questions.

The Skokie Valley Trail will travel over 22 miles from Central Lake County to the City of Chicago. Over twelve miles of the corridor are complete. This segment of the Skokie Valley Trail is an 8.2-mile multi-use trail along the discontinued Union Pacific rail line and ComEd ROW. This project would complete a gap in the regional trail network, providing an uninterrupted, linear connection between Northbrook and Skokie. The trail would begin at Dempster Street in Skokie and extend north to Lake Cook Road in Northbrook. The Corridor generally runs west of and parallel to the Edens Expressway (I-94) and Skokie Boulevard. Several trail sections to the south have utilized CMAQ and other federal funds for design and construction. See the table below. North of Lake Cook Road the completed trail will connect to the Skokie Valley Bikeway in Lake County.

<u>Limits</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>TIP</u>
Devon Av to Lincoln Av	Lincolnwood	02-10-0002
Touhy Overpass	Lincolnwood	02-12-0003
Lincoln Av to Oakton St	Skokie	02-12-0002
Oakton St to Dempster St	Skokie	Constructed

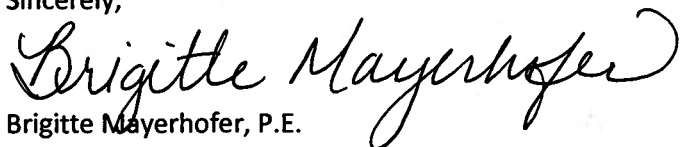
This project will provide transportation options to residents of Cook and Lake Counties and help reduce congestion in the region by creating a mode shift (car to bike) opportunity with the potential to relieve congestion along the Edens and Skokie Boulevard. This project will also enhance public transit (Pace, Metra, and CTA) by providing improved bike connections for a number of stations and stops adjacent to the corridor. The trail will provide the nearly 200,000 adjacent residents with increased non-motorized mobility with employment centers, civic facilities, schools, shopping centers, forest preserves and parks.

In 2008 surrounding communities completed a feasibility study for the Skokie Valley Trail. The study concluded that the Skokie Valley Trail is feasible and will provide adjacent residents with increased opportunities for non-motorized transportation. The trail has strong public support and is included in the regional plans identified below:

- The Northwest Municipal Conference completed a Bicycle Plan in 2010. The goals of the plan were to produce a more detailed corridor analysis and develop an implementation strategy for regional bicycle facilities. The plan identified 16 corridors and established a three tier system of corridor prioritization. Tier One corridors are identified as those with the highest regional impact and best opportunity to be implemented. The Skokie Valley Trail has been classified as one of the six Tier One corridors. The NWMC Bicycle Plan can be viewed at: <http://www.nwmc-cog.org/Transportation/Documents/2010NWMCBikePlan.aspx>
- This trail is also identified as a primary regional trail in the Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trail Plan which was adopted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning in October, 2009. The Plan can be viewed at: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/bike-ped/greenways-and-trails>

In summary, the Skokie Valley Trail Committee is committed to this project and respectfully requests that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force consider the Skokie Valley Trail regionally significant and eligible to receive Phase I funding with the FY 2014-2018 CMAQ program call for projects. Please contact me at 847-853-7627 with your determination or for any questions regarding the project. The Village has agreed to be the lead sponsor in preparing the CMAQ application.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E.  
Director of Engineering Services  
VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

VILLAGE OF GLENVIEW  
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD  
VILLAGE OF GLENCOE  
VILLAGE OF SKOKIE  
LAKE COUNTY DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION