


# New Grant for Future Road Improvements

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A new grant will help the Village of Plainfield assemble a comprehensive plan that will serve as a blueprint for future transportation development.

Under a \$120,000 Chicago metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) grant, the village will pull together information gleaned from other traffic studies conducted in Plainfield into one comprehensive document said Public Works Director Allen Persons.

The document will serve as a “comprehensive tool for the future as far as development is concerned,” said Persons.

Persons said that the village had chosen the engineering firms of Baxter & Woodman, as well as planning firm Teska to conduct the comprehensive plan overhaul because of their experience.

Both firms’ familiarity with Plainfield would allow the village to stretch the grant funding and to include as much new information as possible in the new plan he said.

“The village is not spending any money out of our pockets,” Persons said.

Lou Haussmann, Chief Operating Officer, of Baxter & Woodman concurred, saying that his firm’s work on traffic engineering would allow them to begin work without a lot of prep time.

“We’ve worked with the village for a long time and have a lot of local knowledge,” he said noting that he knows of the challenges and successes the village has had over the years.

“We’re not going to spend a lot of time getting up to speed on this,” said Haussmann who said that the planning and engineering firms combined approach was right for the project.

Both firms would use a 2002 comprehensive plan as a starting point for the revamp.

Haussmann said that the firms would seek input from the public for the comprehensive plan as well, with their first meeting set to take place during the village’s vintage car cruise night on August 21.

After that, meetings will take place bi-monthly, and stake holders will also be engaged through a project website, twitter, and the village’s own web page.

“We’re hoping to get a lot of folks interested in transportation,” he said.

Haussmann said that the year-long, grant-funded study will look at the village’s plans for truck routes, bike paths, and gaps in the village’s network of sidewalks among other details.

The two firms will also help prioritize projects for Plainfield in order to maximize effectiveness when funding becomes available for improvement projects.

“So when funding opportunities become available we have a plan in place,” he said.