

Plainfield looks to future transportation needs

By Madhu Mayer Correspondent December 13, 2012 8:36AM

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The village of Plainfield is driving toward an update to its transportation plan that officials hope will ease traffic and make driving a little smoother for visitors and those who live in the community.

Some of the major roadway projects addressed are:

Extending 143rd Street from Route 59 to Route 126 and Ridge to Steiner roads

Traffic signals at 127th Street and Plainfield-Naperville Road

Construct a grade separation at 143rd Street and Canadian National tracks

119th Street realignment from Ridge Road to Route 30

Van Dyke Road extension from Lockport Street to Renwick Road

Construct Interstate 55 frontage roads from Route 30 to Route 126

The transportation plan update project is being funded by a \$120,000 grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

CMAP is the official regional planning organization for the Northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will.

CMAP developed and now guides the implementation of Go to 2040, which is metropolitan Chicago's first comprehensive regional plan in more than 100 years, to address anticipated population growth of more than two million new residents.

"The goal of this project is to incorporate the updated comprehensive plan and previously completed transportation studies into a single, more manageable document," said Randall Jessen, superintendent of public improvements for Plainfield. "The study will also look at current and future land uses within the community with additional consideration provided for the historic downtown area."

Jessen said the project should be completed by June of next year. Residents who want to offer suggestions can forward them to www.plainfieldtransportation.com.

So far, 96 comments have been received, with majority of the people asking for more turn lanes at Route 59 intersections to reduce congestion, build a Metra train station in Plainfield and expand sidewalks and bike paths.

On Monday, Trustee Bill Lamb said attention also needs to be paid to designing roadways that make it easier for drivers to enter and exit commercial centers, like on Route 59 and 127th Street and 135th Street.

Trustee Jim Racich said of the 32 or so roadways projects listed in the transportation update, extending 143rd Street from Route 59 to Route 126 should be the top priority.

He said what resonates with him is a comment made by a former colleague years ago who said

getting trucks out of downtown Plainfield remains the most critical issue facing the village.