

# La Grange approves final funding for Metra station enhancement project

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The La Grange Village Board Monday approved an agreement with Metra to acquire the final funding for improvements to the Stone Avenue train station.

“We already have one of the highest percentages of people who walk or bike bicycles to the station on the BNSF line,” Village Manager Andrianna Peterson said in a telephone interview.

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The details of the project can be found on the village’s website.

The project will include new covered bicycle parking, greater interconnectivity between the platform and surrounding streets, and removing the “kiss and ride” section on Hillgrove Avenue, to be replaced by diagonal parking spaces.

Peterson stressed that commuters would still be able to kiss their spouses goodbye, but can now do so in diagonal parking spaces.

The project was originally approved in 2012, and will still be entirely funded by grants from outside agencies.

Funding has been acquired through various grants over the last six years and comes to \$1,800,400, which will come from the following agencies: Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning (CMAP), Regional Transportation Authority, the West Suburban Mass Transit District and Metra.

Updated construction estimates made additional funding necessary and the Metra agreement approved Monday was the only new funding approved.

“The additional funding will allow the project to proceed as designed and provide an enhancement to walkers and station accessibility,” Peterson said.

Peterson said the project will be completed as planned, with work scheduled to begin in the next 60 days and completed during the 2018 construction season.

The board also approved funds for replacing the water main on Park Road between Ogden Avenue and 41st Street.

“The primary reason for replacement is that this segment of the water main, installed in 1920, has reached the end of its useful life and is in poor condition,” reads the staff report on the agenda, to be found on the village’s website.

“We’re working on our infrastructure this summer,” Peterson said, indicating that road resurfacing for Park Road and Dover Avenue—between Ogden Avenue and 41st Street – would be on the board’s July agenda for consideration.

But before the roadwork can be done, the water main on Park must first be replaced.

Total cost for the water main project is \$398,205, of which \$357,075 is for actual construction. The construction contract was awarded to Patrick Construction of Franklin Park, the firm judged the lowest responsible bidder.

The project is scheduled to begin July 15 and be completed by September 7.

**Hank Beckman is a freelancer.**