

La Grange approves additional grant from Metra for Stone Avenue station improvements

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Project to include additional bike parking, covered bike spaces

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LA GRANGE – Commuters who ride their bikes to La Grange’s Stone Avenue Metra station will soon have covered bicycle parking, as well as more places to lock up their bikes, as construction on station renovations is expected to begin in late summer and be completed by spring 2019.

The renovations initially were approved by the La Grange Village Board in 2012, but the project faced delays after the lowest bid was more than the village’s allotted budget, which is comprised of funding from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Regional Transportation Authority, West Suburban Mass Transit District and Metra.

The Village Board gave final approval at its June 25 meeting for additional Metra funding of \$95,000 to make up the shortfall. The total cost for the project is estimated to be just more than \$1.8 million, which will be funded solely by grants.

In addition to the additional bike parking and covered bike spaces, the project also will improve the interconnectivity between the platforms, the station and surrounding streets, as well as remove the "kiss and ride" drop-off area and replace it with additional diagonal parking spaces.

Village Manager Andrianna Peterson said the kiss and ride area was underused, and the improvements will allow for short-term parking not only for station drop-offs, but also for shoppers in the area. About 10 to 12 additional parking spaces will be added.

Peterson said the village has received positive feedback from commuters about the project. She said cyclists had been requesting additional bike parking areas.

“We want to encourage commuters to walk or bike to the station whenever possible, and the improvements should facilitate that,” she said. “The project will improve commuter accessibility in and around the station. Stone Avenue station has one of the highest levels of commuters who walk

or bike to the station. These improvements will provide additional opportunities for bicyclists to access the station and the area.”