



The Village of Glenview

June 29, 2005

Honorable Governor Rod Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield IL 62706

RE: Willow Road – Waukegan to I-94 – Project Funding

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

I am writing you to express the Village of Glenview's concern regarding IDOT's pending plans for the reconstruction of Willow Road in Northfield, which is presently scheduled in the State's 2006 Budget at a total project cost of \$5.561 million. This project includes the construction of a center turning lane on Willow Road between Sunset Ridge Road to just west of I-94, closure of various streets to eliminate access to Willow, and turning bay improvements at signalized intersections.

The Village of Glenview Board of Trustees is respectfully requesting that you intercede in this matter and broker a compromise that makes long term sense. It is possible to accommodate both the desire for Northfield to have a three-lane configuration through their community, while installing the appropriate amount of pavement to accommodate four lanes to ensure an efficacious resolution to this matter as traffic congestion worsens in the area.

The Village requested plans for the Northfield project from IDOT representatives over three weeks ago and still has not received them to date. Mr. Pat Pechnick, IDOT's Willow Road Project Coordinator, has verbally informed Village staff that the current plans provide for two 13' through lanes and one 12' painted median turning lane from Sunset Ridge Road to just west of I-94. In addition, the turning lane is not continuous. The total pavement width of the three-lane configuration is 38'. Given the very limited amount of pavement width planned for the project, IDOT staff could not possibly accommodate four lanes, nor as Glenview was advised (via e-mail), will they apparently entertain the possibility.

Glenview Concerns and Alternative Solutions/Recommendations:

The Village of Glenview understands and respects IDOT staff's tremendously difficult mission with regards to meeting the demands of all the various interests involved with widening Willow Road, which IDOT has designated as a Strategic Regional Arterial. In fact, it is readily acknowledged that no solution will satisfy all interested parties; however, the Glenview Village Board believes it is both essential and incumbent upon IDOT to consider the following issues prior to moving forward with this project:

Efficiency of Proposed Solution:

Mr. Pechnick, IDOT, recently acknowledged to Glenview staff members on June 1, 2005 that while the project entails a three-lane configuration, sufficient right-of-way currently exists to construct four to five lanes of highway within Northfield's portion of Willow Road. **The Glenview Village Board of Trustees' unanimous position on this matter is to respectfully request that serious consideration be given to paving Willow Road wide enough to accommodate four lanes of traffic, while striping for three lanes in the interim.** This compromise position affords the surrounding communities with valuable flexibility should the three lane configuration not have an appreciable impact on traffic congestion; however, this proactive solution also helps the State of Illinois avoid unnecessary costs in the future. To elaborate, if the fourth lane solution is integrated into the current project, it is estimated by Glenview Engineering experts that 13 additional feet of pavement width (standard lane width), encompassing the 1.6-mile stretch can be added in today for approximately \$1.5M. While this cost is not insignificant by any definition, the future cost of tearing out curbing and re-mobilizing paving crews will undoubtedly dwarf the \$1.5M initial cost.

Regional impact of Project:

The Village of Glenview is concerned that a three lane solution between Sunset Ridge and I-94, through the Village of Northfield will have a marginal, at best, impact on alleviating traffic congestion problems in the Northbrook, Glenview, and Northfield area. The concern is that if the current four lane configuration existing from I-294 to Sunset Ridge is not continued through to I-94, the currently existing bottleneck will continue to exist and worsen over time. The result of said bottleneck unnecessarily increases the traffic congestion in Glenview on Waukegan Road and Lake Avenue, as motorists who refuse to wait prolonged periods of time to traverse through Northfield add major volumes of traffic onto already heavily traveled arterials in Glenview. While this solution is apparently acceptable to Northfield, Glenview residents and Glenview infrastructure are shouldering a disproportionate burden at present and will do so to an even greater extent in the future with a sub-standard three lane solution. If State and Federal dollars are to be used wisely towards this project, does it not make sense to create a traffic solution that is equitable to all communities in the area?

Traffic Studies:

The Illinois Department of Transportation conducted studies evaluating traffic capacity scenarios vis a vis the Willow Road corridor in both the 1980's and 1990's. At that time, IDOT personnel concluded that the existing lane configuration did not meet traffic

demands of the roadway and proposed lengthening Willow Road to accommodate two additional thru lanes for the length of the segment between Waukegan Road and I-94. If IDOT's own traffic studies and experts agree that a four or five lane configuration is the long term answer, the Village once again questions the logic spending \$5.561 million on a project that does not have a long-term positive impact for the area.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me at 847-904-4370 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kerry Cummings
Village President

Cc: Village of Northbrook Manager John Novinson
Village of Northbrook President Eugene Marks
Village of Northfield Manager Mark Morien
Village of Northfield President John L. Birkenbine, Jr.
State Representative Elizabeth Coulson
State Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg
State Senator Susan Garrett
State Representative Elaine Nekritz
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