

Barrington approves grant application for \$1M bike path

By Amanda Marrazzo
Special to the Chicago Tribune
May 16, 2012 Wednesday

Barrington officials hope to score a state grant that would help pay for the 2014 construction of a \$1 million pedestrian and bike path along Main Street and Hart Road.

The Barrington Board of Trustees gave village staff the green light to move forward with the application process at its May 14 meeting. If approved a formal announcement would be made in late 2012 and engineering and design approvals would occur in late 2013.

Trustee Beth Raseman said she is “happy” with the plan and added it is a project the Village’s pedestrian and bicycle committee has been “working a long time on.”

The village will take part in the grant opportunity offered by the Illinois Department of Transportation that provides funding for community projects that expand travel choices and enhance transportation improving the cultural, historic aesthetic and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure, according to a village memo.

IDOT would pay for \$800,000 of the project with the village picking up the remaining \$200,000.

The committee, engineering and building staff, and the economic and community development staff have identified a potential multi-use trail location that would connect the western ends of the sidewalk system along Main Street, then along Hart Road to the existing Field of Dreams Bike Path. That trail would eventually connect to a path along U.S. Route 14 once the intersection at Hart Road is improved.

The project also would include two pedestrian signals at existing lights (Main Street/Hart Road and Hart Road/High School Entrance Drive) and a bridge over the Flint Creek tributary, near the Barrington High School Football Stadium.

Barrington's Bikeways & Pedestrian Paths

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Past: Understanding Connectivity through Bike and Pedestrian Linkages

The Village of Barrington has been conscious of the need to explore connectivity to various areas of the community for many years. In 1998, the Village hired TranSystems Corporation to undertake a Barrington Bikeway Study to determine how and where connectivity could be accomplished through bikeways and pedestrian connections. The Bikeways Study was prepared in response to availability of federal funding and public interest expressed from the Village residents. The final product identified a strategy for the planning and construction of marked bikeway routes throughout the Village. (The study can be found below in .pdf form.) At the time the study was undertaken the Village had a total of 0.5 miles of bikeways, none of which were marked. The study results identified approximately 13.4 miles of new bikeways which would create a network of safe facilities throughout the Village's roadway network. The bikeway facilities plan provided for off-street bike paths, on-shoulder bike lanes, on-road signed and striped bike lanes, and on-road signed bike routes. The plan was to provide a network of bikeway corridors to encourage bikeway use for the casual user, children, adults, and the experienced bicyclists.

In 2010, the Village began the update of the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Neighborhood meetings were held throughout the Village to receive resident input for this long-range planning document. It became apparent through these meetings that resident input focused on bicycle and pedestrian connectivity; and improving how people can get around the Village without an automobile.

Present: Improving Connectivity as a Transit Alternative

In response to the Plan Commission's request as part of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan update the Village Board set forth to establish a Bike and Pedestrian Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan and map for the Village; advocate programs to encourage bicycling and walking as healthy alternative modes of transportation; promote safety campaigns and education programs through Village-sponsored bicycle activities; develop educational materials for distribution throughout the community; and recommend possible

coordination with other agencies, advocacy groups and surrounding municipalities and other jurisdictions, identify potential grants and programs to assist with the implementation of the approved bicycle plan. The Committee is charged with updating the Bikeways Plan and promoting the use of alternative modes of transportation for the benefit of all Barrington residents from first grade to retirement.

The updated plan will have a similar structure to the 1998 Barrington Bikeway Plan in that it will include the purpose and goals, an analysis of the existing conditions and corridors, and recommendations for future improvements. However, this plan will also include a complete Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS) which provides a rating system to each route and path; a priority and phasing plan for short and long term planning; funding options outside of the Village of Barrington budget; maintenance on the entire system; how to educate, encourage and enforce the public on bicyclist and pedestrian rights; and finally performance measures to gauge the effectiveness of the plan.

Future:

The Village desires to establish a bikeway and pedestrian plan that can be implemented over time with the ultimate goal to connect the Village neighborhoods to schools, shopping, and recreational facilities.

The Barrington Bike and Pedestrian committee meets the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street, Barrington, IL. Should you want additional information or have questions or input, contact Kramer, Planner, at (847) 304-3473 or kkramer@barrington-il.gov

Village Bike and Pedestrian Documents:

1998 Barrington Bikeway Study (pdf)

Barrington Bikeway Planning Map (pdf)

Barrington Master Sidewalk Plan Map (pdf)

Bicycle & Pedestrian Resources:

- 1.) League of Illinois Bicyclists - www.bikelib.org
- 2.) Safe Routes to School - www.dot.il.gov/saferoutes/
- 3.) Northwest Municipal Conference – www.nwmc-cog.org/

- 4.) Bicycle Information Center – www.bicyclinginfo.org/
- 5.) Pedestrian Information Center - www.walkinginfo.org/
- 6.) Active Transportation Alliance – www.activetrans.org