



Village of Downers Grove
Public Works
Memo

To: Dave Fieldman

From: Nan Newlon

Date: January 21, 2015

**Subject: Clyde Country Estates Improvements
Update on Council Meeting Discussion Items**

This memo is an update to the information provided in the Manager's Report on December 12, 2014 (see attached) and the presentation and public comment at the Council meeting on January 6, 2015.

Key Points

- Staff has spoken with the five residents who addressed the Council on January 6
- Two modifications to the plans have been made based on these conversations
 - The stormwater retention area at Washington/Clyde/60th Place has been modified to preserve two trees.
 - The traffic circle at Washington/Clyde/60th Place has been eliminated to preserve one tree.
- Resident engagement has been extensive and there appears to be significant neighborhood support for the planned improvements.
- The sidewalk, drainage, traffic calming and tree preservation plans are summarized in the report.
- Installing curb and gutter throughout the subdivision would be difficult given current conditions and would dramatically increase the cost of the project.
- Next steps include continued resident engagement, a third neighborhood meeting, a call for bids in March and Council consideration of the construction contract in April.

Engagement with Five Residents Who Spoke at the January 6 Council Meeting

Staff has talked with the five residents who attended and spoke at the meeting. Staff has invited each to meet and has met with two of them to answer questions and clarify their concerns. The issues and questions that have been raised are related to the:

- Installation of public sidewalks.
- Design of the drainage system.
- Proposed street modifications for traffic calming.
- Option for curb and gutter.
- Tree removals.
- Effectiveness of resident engagement.

Changes to the Plans

Pursuant to the resident concern from the January 6th meeting staff has reviewed the situation at each intersection and made the following changes to the plans:

- Modified the design of the stormwater retention area at Washington/Clyde/60th Place to reduce the grading and retain the two existing large trees.
- Eliminated the proposed traffic circle at the intersection of Washington/Webster/60th and retain the existing large tree.

These modifications to the design will still result in the desired traffic calming effect while saving the three large trees. Staff does not believe this change to the stormwater retention area will significantly affect the overall functionality of the drainage system.

Resident Engagement

The resident interaction through the design phase of this project has been extensive.

- Two formal neighborhood meetings were held, one in August and one in November.
- 38 individuals, representing 28 individual households, have attended at least one of these public meetings.
- Staff has either met or corresponded with residents who were not able to attend either of the meetings, which represents an additional 11 households.
- In total, staff has interacted with at least 39 separate households, or 56% of the 69 total households in this project area.

A third neighborhood meeting will be conducted prior to the start of construction to provide information about the design changes described in this report as well as construction sequencing, schedule and how communication with residents will occur during the construction of the project.

Public Sidewalks Design

Several residents have expressed general opposition to the construction of new sidewalks in this subdivision. Some residents who have attended neighborhood meetings, and in particular those with children or who are caregivers to people with special needs, have been particularly engaged and interested in seeing new sidewalks constructed. Staff has very carefully selected the locations of the proposed sidewalk to minimize impacts to the existing neighborhood. Prior to construction staff will continue to make small adjustments to the sidewalks to address resident concerns to the extent possible. Staff has discussed specifics of sidewalk design with individual residents and clarified their responsibility for the maintenance of parkway lawns where new sidewalk is constructed.

Drainage Design

Many homeowners have reported significant drainage issues, both in the public right-of-way and on their private property. These issues will be mitigated or reduced by the proposed improvements. Several residents have expressed a concern with receiving a new ditch in front of their property, and have requested a storm sewer. A design that includes a combination of ditches and storm sewers is proposed. Where ditches can be used they are preferred because during heavy rain events they convey significantly more water than do storm sewers. They also help provide better drainage of the road base, which extends the life of the road. In certain situations a ditch may not be possible due to existing space or grade constraints. In those cases, a storm sewer will be used. Staff is working with the Village's consultant to minimize the slopes of ditches as much as possible while still providing positive drainage.

Traffic Calming

At the first public meeting, many residents raised the need for traffic calming on Washington Street. As a result traffic calming design elements at two intersections were included with the original plans. They included:

- Reconfigured intersection at Washington/Clyde/60th Place.
- Traffic circle at the intersection of Washington/Webster/60th.

These proposed improvements were presented at the second public meeting and, with a few exceptions, were very well received by the residents in attendance. Unfortunately, both of these improvements would require the removal of large trees, two at the first intersection and one at the second.

Curb and Gutter Construction

The construction of curb & gutter and storm sewers throughout a subdivision such as Clyde Country Estates would be a very difficult and expensive undertaking. Existing neighborhoods are not generally graded to accommodate a new curb. Curb & Gutter would preclude the use of the Full-Depth Reclamation for the street reconstruction, which would result in significantly more cost, construction traffic, construction time and disruption to the neighborhood. Land would be needed to create stormwater detention and water quality improvements to mitigate the negative downstream impacts from additional runoff. Some very limited amounts of curb are included in the design where the improvements are connecting to streets that already have curb & gutter, such as 59th Street and Main Street.

Tree Removals

Residents have expressed concern with the loss of trees, especially the three large trees that would be lost due to the proposed intersection modifications. Through a modification of the design (described above) the three large trees will no longer need to be removed. While some tree loss is inevitable, engineering staff has and will continue to coordinate and work closely with the Village Forester throughout the project to ensure that tree removals are minimized. Replacement trees will be planted to the highest extent possible.

Summary and Next Steps

Staff will continue to interact with all interested residents, receive their feedback, answer questions, and make adjustments to the design as necessary. As has been done with the previous reconstruction projects that have been successfully completed in recent years, this outreach and coordination will continue throughout the construction of the project. Staff will also work with the design consultant to remove the traffic circle and re-grade the stormwater management area to save the three large, existing trees. These revisions will slightly delay the bidding and construction schedule, but staff does not believe the short delay will be detrimental to the project's success, and that it should still easily be completed within the 2015 construction season. Staff estimates that bids will be received in March, and that a construction contract will be presented for Council approval in April.

