

Village of Plainfield Strategic Plan 2018
Action Item Update
February 11, 2014

Transportation/Community Connections Action Items

Action Item: Continue to foster regular project design and implementation plans in conjunction with the other agencies of our region. Assemble a list of projection locations, including a description of work to be completed. Integrate the Village’s list of projects with the projects planned by other jurisdictions.

Staff has received Transportation Planning reports from Oswego and Naperville. Representatives from other neighboring communities have been contacted and the Village will be meeting with Staff from these communities this spring.

Staff met with representatives from Plainfield and Wheatland Townships. Long-term and short-term transportation improvement plans were discussed.

Representatives from Will and Kendall Counties have been contacted and they have agreed to address the Village Board, at a Committee of the Whole Workshop, in March regarding their plans. Each County representative will provide an overview of current and future transportation improvement projects. Short-term and long-term transportation improvement plans will also be presented. Updates regarding the new Ridge Road construction project, in Kendall County, and the 119th Street/Naperville Road construction project, in Will County, will be provided.

Action Item: Formulate a “Complete Street” Plan that allows for comfortable and safe pedestrian and bike connections.

Staff has had several meetings with Teska Consulting about the completion of a Complete and Livable Street Plan for the Village. The plan would:

- Describe and provide illustrations of a Complete Street and Livable Street design.
- Incorporate a diagram showing the Village’s sidewalk and bike path network, currently being prepared by the Village’s IT/GIS Department.
- Outline several opportunities for construction of a Complete Street in the Village. Staff has discussed the potential of Van Dyke Road and Meadow Lane as two major north-south collectors that could be perfect candidates for the Village’s first Complete Street.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that Plainfield maintains a friendly and safe network for pedestrians and bicyclists alike. Plainfield has already taken a large step

towards accomplishing this goal by incorporating one of the largest and most comprehensive off-street bike lane networks in the southwest suburbs.

The general parameters of a Complete Street policy have been reviewed and Staff has scheduled a meeting with Teska to review the proposal for consulting services for this project. The proposal will be ready for the Village Board's consideration on March 3rd.

Another component that Staff and Teska will look into is the incorporation of a series of guidelines related to the creation of "Livable Streets" in the Village. This would emphasize the importance of creating an attractive "public realm" when looking at street design in the future.

Action Item: Create an inventory and map of existing pedestrian and bike connections as well as current gaps in the proposed network. COMPLETE

Staff has completed an inventory of existing bike paths and sidewalks within the Village limits. Using existing GIS data, Google Earth, Google Street View, and in-person field verification we now have a comprehensive digital inventory of unpaved nature trails, on-road bike lanes, paths, bike paths, and sidewalks in the Village. ~~(See attached plan.)~~

Action Item: Continue involvement with the I-55 CAG.

V3 has been contacted and Staff was informed that a CAG Meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

The National Environmental Policy Administration (NEPA) has scheduled a hearing where V3 will provide an update regarding the possible options for improving/expanding access to I-55. All of the area communities impacted (Plainfield, Bolingbrook, and Romeoville) will be able to provide comments regarding each option after the meeting occurs. ~~(See attached information.)~~

Staff presented several options that would improve access to I-55 at the December 9, 2013 Committee of the Whole Workshop. The Board provided feedback regarding each option.

Action Item: Work closely with IDOT to support the expansion of the existing Route 30 & I-55 ramps and the reconstruction and expansion of the Route 30 turn lanes.

Rt. 30 & I-55 – IDOT has completed the final set of design drawings for expansion of this interchange. Construction is scheduled to occur in 2014.

Representatives from Strand Engineering, IDOT's consultant, addressed the Village Board at the January 27th Committee of the Whole Workshop. They provided an update

regarding the final design and indicated that the interchange improvement will be out for bid soon with construction scheduled to start this construction year.

Action Item: 143rd Street Extension

Staff participated in two meetings with representatives of ComEd over the past two months. ComEd has agreed to provide a general letter of understanding, regarding the use of the property that IDOT will include within our Phase 1 Report. Jeff Hettrick has stated that he will continue to work with Staff to coordinate this process.

The Village consultant, CMT, has submitted all of the final environmental study reports requested by IDOT. The only outstanding item, required to receive final approval for "Phase 1" Design is the letter of understanding from ComEd.

ComEd has submitted a letter to IDOT regarding this project. Subsequently, IDOT requested that the Village meet with ComEd again and provide additional information regarding the future relocation of utilities. Staff met with ComEd representatives and we will submit a summary of our findings to IDOT by the end of February.

Action Item: Support current Pace services and investigate options for expansion of public transportation/Pace service.

The Village applied for a grant to study the need to expand public transportation. However, the funding was not approved. Pace has indicated that they are committed to collecting ridership data and generating reports regarding the growing demand for public transportation within our community.

The Village submitted a letter in support of Pace's efforts to expand the I-55 Bus on Shoulder service.

Staff met with representatives from Pace and discussed the possible relocation of the Park-n-Ride facility at Village Hall. Pace outlined that one of their biggest challenges in Plainfield was the delay caused by CN trains. Pace is exploring several options for a new Park-n-Ride in Plainfield.

Action Item: Lockport Street Traffic Calming

Staff is working on options for traffic calming. IDOT has been receptive to the Village's concerns. Possible options will be reviewed at the next Village Traffic Committee Meeting.

The Traffic Committee has reviewed several options for traffic calming and they have recommended that a decorative "mast arm" be installed over Lockport Street, near Countryman Drive, displaying signs that direct truck traffic away from our historic

downtown. Supplemental pavement marking is also recommended to support this effort.

Staff has started working on drawings that will be submitted to IDOT this spring regarding the proposed installation of the “mast arm” and pavement marking.

Community Life/Identity Action Items

Action Item: Promote and celebrate the pending “National Register of Historic Places” designation throughout Will and Kendall Counties.

This action item has been completed. Staff has successfully worked with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on a series of press releases promoting the designation of the Downtown as a National Register District. Additionally, this designation was recognized at a Village Board meeting in October. A new page has been added to the Village web site with information on the National Register District designation.

QR codes, which link to the Village web site, are printed on decals and posted throughout the National Register District. They provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to complete a walking tour of the Village’s historic structures. This interactive walking tour is unique to Plainfield in the Chicago area and helps promote heritage tourism in the Village. A Walking Tour Brochure has also been distributed throughout the community.

The HPC is in the process of ordering a sign that commemorates the Downtown’s National Register Status. The sign will be unveiled in the spring during Preservation Month.

Action Item: Host a series of Downtown Design workshops between the Village Board, Plan Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission before Staff completes the “Central Area Plan.”

Either one or two workshops are being planned to be held potentially in March between the Village Board, Plan Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on Downtown “visioning.” The first part of any workshop should be defining the boundaries of the downtown. The following boundaries should be discussed:

- Defining the Downtown as the historical Downtown or the area east of the DuPage River.
- Including the area west of the DuPage River along Lockport Street (Teng Plan).

- Should the area including Patriot Square, Fairfield Ridge, Cedarlake Village, the 58 acre site owned by the Village, and area between Van Dyke and Wood Farm be considered a part of Downtown?

The second part of the workshop would be a visual preference survey reflecting different development patterns and densities that should be considered for the Downtown. Specifically, what type of development is the Village Board, Plan Commission and HPC looking for in the Downtown? Should it be mixed use, single-use, auto-oriented, single-family, or multi-family?

By defining the boundaries of the downtown and providing some input of a visual preference survey, Staff will be able to refine a draft of the “Downtown Plan” for the Plan Commission and Village Board’s review.

Staff is meeting with Teska to inquire about the potential of Teska serving as a facilitator for future Downtown workshops. Teska would facilitate the discussion between the Village Board, Plan Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission regarding creating a unified, long-term vision for the Downtown. The GIS Department is working on a number of figure map diagrams that reflect different design concepts for the expanded Downtown. These maps will provide a starting point for discussions during the joint workshops.

Action Item: Facilitate a master plan for a new Farmers Market at the Riverfront Property. Work with the current Farmers Market organizer to address market concerns and make changes.

Based on several inquiries with the French Market, it appears that Plainfield may be a future market opportunity. However, they are not in the position to proceed with a new operation in Plainfield in 2014. Consequently, Staff will be meeting with the current Farmers Market organizers to determine what changes are appropriate in 2014. Staff has the following concerns about the market and would like to look at some potential changes:

- Determine the appropriate site.
- Investigate the potential of creating a unified display and signage approach.
- Determine the potential of a more ambitious marketing campaign.

Action Item: Work with the Township on improving parking, signage, and the architectural elevation for the proposed “Senior Center.”

Staff met with the Township Supervisor and discussed the potential of constructing a new parking lot on Township owned property along Des Plaines Street.

Action Item: Work with the Township on a long-term plan for redevelopment of the subject site.

Pending

Action Item: Prepare a series of drawings and concepts for unified gateway, way-finding, and street signage as well as landscaping as part of a municipal signage plan for the Village.

Staff is taking this opportunity to incorporate a series of conceptual sketches for gateway signage in the Village. The goal is to formulate a unified Village signage plan that will create a look and feel reflecting the Village's rural heritage. Based on celebrating the Village's history and the legacy of the number of stone barns in the Plainfield area, Staff is proposing that a limestone base be used on the gateway signage. This reflects the limestone base for the gateway sign that is located at the southeast corner of Main Street and Route 59 and the limestone wall that is located in front of the Lincoln Highway gazebo on Lockport Street.

As for the design of the actual signage, Staff has provided the Village Board with several different concepts and styles. However, all would be constructed with a wood sandblasted design. The sign would incorporate the Village logo along with the founding date of 1834.

Additionally, Staff is proposing a series of way-finding signs that would be located throughout the Village on major collectors identifying important destinations, such as the downtown, Village Hall, Library, Post office, etc. Along with the way-finding signage, Staff would like to design either a wood or aluminum Village identifier that would be located along major collectors (Renwick, Lockport, Van Dyke, Drauden, 135th, 127th, 119th, and Ridge).

Staff is also working on a Route 66/Lincoln Highway Commemorative sign plan for Downtown that celebrates the fact that Plainfield is one of only two places in the United States where Route 66 crosses the Lincoln Highway.

Based on feedback from the Village Board, Staff is working on a template for gateway and way-finding signage for the Board's final review and consideration. In addition, based on support for the rectangular, sandblasted sign, Staff is investigating the potential of reusing the existing gateway signage and simply constructing a limestone foundation for each sign and adding a unified landscape plan.

Action Item: Research and develop a service club signage policy.

Staff has started researching how other communities handle service club signage.

Action Item: Staff will investigate the potential of creating a package of economic incentives that would potentially assist in attracting a theatre and a series of stand-alone restaurants to the commercial site at 143rd Street and Route 59.

Staff continues to try to recruit a movie theatre group that would be interested in developing a multi-screen theatre at the Prairie Creek development on Route 59, south of 135th Street. A movie theatre would boost the Village's ability to recruit a number of sit-down and casual dining restaurants. The key to the success of this commercial development is creating a place of destination.

Along with the commercial component of this project, Staff is working with NVR Homes on a concept for a multi-family development on the eastern portion of this planned development. Additional rooftops will help any future commercial development that would be located on this parcel.

Staff is working with a broker and prospective developer on a potential commercial development at this site. At this time, there are preliminary discussions regarding the developer's request for incentives.

Action Item: Invite the presidents of all Village homeowners associations to participate in an annual meeting with the Village Department Directors.

Staff has reached out to the associations through E-News, the Village web site, and social media to request current contact information.

Staff proposes to hold a meeting with the Department Directors and HOA Presidents in the spring of 2014.

The HOA Presidents' Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 9. Staff will reach out to the HOA Presidents via e-mail.

Action Item: Offer to attend HOA meetings throughout the Village to provide information and answer questions.

Staff will extend this offer at the spring meeting with the HOA Presidents.

Business and Retail Development Action Items

Action Item: Establish a series of meetings with leading commercial brokers in the Chicago region, regarding the commercial opportunities along the Route 59 corridor.

Staff met with a developer to discuss opportunities for commercial development along the Route 59 corridor. Additionally, Staff has been working with a broker on potential commercial opportunities along the Route 30 and Route 59 corridors.

Action Item: Work with the Economic Development Advisory Task Force on setting up retention meetings with the various major commercial retailers in the Village and review current market trends for each of these retailers. COMPLETE

The Task Force and Staff have completed the retention visits with the Village's largest retailers. A summary report of the visits was presented to the Task Force and Village Board. The Village Board and community were provided with an update of the results of these retention visits at the November 25 Committee of the Whole Workshop.

Based on these retention visits, Staff believes it is critical for the long term vitality of these retailers that growth returns to the Village. Many of these retailers opened stores in Plainfield based on the assumption that growth would continue for the foreseeable future.

As part of this Strategic Plan, Plainfield should continue to welcome residential development to the Village and promote growth while maintaining the standards for design that we have consistently implemented.

Action Item: Create an incentive package to recruit a hotel/business center along Route 59 or Route 30. Work with developers to recruit a hotel.

Staff will be working with Retail Strategies to closely analyze the potential of attracting a hospitality business (motel/hotel) to the Village. If data supports the potential to recruit a user, Staff will work with Retail Strategies to reach out to major national brands in an attempt to have them locate in the Village.

Action Item: Investigate whether or not there is anything the Village can do to help resolve litigation at the Boulevard.

Pending

Action Item: Investigate the potential of creating a TIF District along Route 30. COMPLETE

The Economic Development Advisory Task Force determined that a TIF District would not be appropriate at this time.

Village Infrastructure Action Items

Action Item: Work with the Riverfront Foundation and Steering Committee on hardscape improvements.

Pending

Action Item: Work with the Plainfield Park District to facilitate construction of the DuPage River Trail pathway.

Staff participated in a meeting with representatives of the Park District and the Riverfront Foundation. We have been informed that the path, from Lockport Street south to the Riverfront Building, will be constructed next year.

Staff is working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as we seek the required approvals and permits for this project.

Action Item: Support the Park District in the design and construction of a new pedestrian bridge. COMPLETE

Staff participated in a meeting with representatives of the Park District and the Riverfront Foundation. The location of the bridge, over the river and east of the Riverfront Building, has been finalized. The Foundation expressed the desire to seek an additional vehicular access roadway, to the south side of the property, as part of a future project. The Foundation will take the lead on this initiative.

Action Item: Assist the Riverfront Foundation in coordinating the removal of debris from the area.

Staff participated in a meeting with the Riverfront Foundation where improvements to the Riverfront Center were discussed as well as the removal of debris from the Riverfront property, south of Lockport Street. It was agreed that an “on-site” meeting between the Foundation, Village Staff, IEPA, and the Will County Land Use Department will occur in **March**.

Action Item: Develop a usage policy for Riverfront Park.

Pending

Action Item: Refine existing residential design standards to reflect new market trends in residential development.

Staff has reviewed the current ordinances and identified those areas of the current policy that should be evaluated again by the Plan Commission and Village Board.

As the housing market recovers, Plainfield has been contacted by a number of national builders who are very interested in starting new developments in the Village of Plainfield. Based on a number of new market trends, Staff has been working on a series of residential guidelines that will maintain certain minimum standards for production builders in the Village.

These proposed guidelines will focus more on the use of certain materials on the front elevations and roof lines versus 360 degree architecture and architectural balance which the "Residential Design & Planning Guidelines for Planned Unit Developments and Annexations" focused on.

The Village Board and Staff held a design workshop and toured a number of model homes by Ryan Homes and Pulte. Based on input from the Village Board, Staff is in the process of revising the draft set of "Design Standards" that were distributed to the Village Board at the workshop. We anticipate that a final draft will be ready for the Village Board to review at the second Committee of the Whole Workshop in February.

Action Item: Refine the Village's site Plan Review ordinance by incorporating pictures and specific architectural examples.

Staff is working on a new "Site Plan Review Ordinance" with pictures of commercial development from the Village of Plainfield whenever possible.

Action Item: Develop a form based zoning code for the downtown.

Pending

Action Item: Coordinate joint visioning sessions with other elected officials on a semiannual basis.

Pending

Action Item: The Department Directors will perform a comprehensive analysis of staffing needs and present their recommendations during budget discussions. COMPLETE

This item is complete.

Action Item: The Village Board will review the staffing recommendations, consider priorities, and identify funding.

Pending