

AGENDA

SPECIAL RULES MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS

Village Hall

6:00 p.m.

September 19, 2011

1. Informational Meeting with School District 163 Officials

Adjournment

MOTIONS

MOVED that the Consent Agenda and each item contained therein be hereby approved:

1. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Minutes of the Saturday Rules Meeting of August 6, 2011, that Minutes of the Saturday Rules Meeting of August 20, 2011
2. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a Resolution Thanking Al Martinez for His Dedicated Service to the Village of Park Forest
3. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a Resolution Establishing a Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy
4. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a Resolution Authorizing the Initiation of Phase Two of the FRA Quiet Zone Assistance Project and the Submittal of a Notice of Intent to Establish a Full Quiet Zone at Western Avenue
5. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint David Atkins, 151 Main Street to fill a vacancy as Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission for a term to end December 31, 2011.

MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint Louise Smith, 3001 Western Avenue to fill a vacancy as Vice-Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission for a term to end December 31, 2011.

9/19/2011

**VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SATURDAY RULES MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2011**

PRESENT: Trustee Bonita Dillard, Trustee Ken Kramer, Trustee Georgia O'Neill
Village Manager Tom Mick,
Director of Recreation and Parks John Joyce

ALSO PRESENT: Resident Robert Cooper of 136 Willow Street (arrived at 11:00 a.m.)

ABSENT: Mayor John Ostenburg, Trustee Mae Brandon, Trustee Gary Kopycinski,
Trustee Robert McCray

Trustee Ken Kramer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Village Manager Mick reviewed his weekly update to the Board. There was a brief discussion on Main Street Nights and the Jolly Trolley. Regarding the latter, Village Manager Mick noted he met with Pat Peters of Rich Township regarding the inclusion of the Food Co-Op on the route; other grocery store options were discussed. There was also a discussion about the Rail Park and the work in progress at that location. John Joyce shared information from a 2003 Trains Magazine article received from Jim Giblin for reference to use in signs and messages at the Rail Park. Village Manager Mick also updated the Board on a Freedom on Information request received this week.

Director Joyce gave the Board an update on the Aqua Center operating schedule and season passes sold. There have been 115 saves so far this season. Although season pass fees are down daily fees revenue is up reflecting what appears to be a trend in consumer spending – a pay as you go attitude that has also been seen in Freedom Hall revenue. This week there was a visit to the Aqua Center by 150 band camp students from Rich South which was very impressive. There is a Staff Party scheduled at the Aqua Center this weekend for all current and previous members of the Aqua Center Staff; it is expected to be well attended with individuals coming in from out of state for the event. Director Joyce gave Director Jason Miller and Jerry Shnay information about the party for possible publication. He also informed the Board there is a video on the Emerald Ash Borer out on You Tube and playing in the Village Lobby that is very informative in addition to an excellent video on the Aqua Center on the Village website.

Mr. Cooper was present to discuss his property taxes and fees for the Village stickers. Village Manager Mick informed him the Village portion of his \$5800 tax bill is at most \$1800; the remainder is split between different taxing entities. In an effort to assist him in interpreting his bill, Village Manager Mick asked Mr. Cooper to contact him next week to schedule a time to meet; they will go over his tax bill. His concern over the price of the Village sticker was noted.

Having no other business to discuss, Trustee Kramer called the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Salmen, Recorder

**VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SATURDAY RULES MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2011**

PRESENT: Mayor John Ostenburg, Trustee Mae Brandon, Trustee Bonita Dillard,
Trustee Ken Kramer, Trustee Gary Kopycinski, Trustee Georgia O'Neill
Village Manager Tom Mick

ABSENT: Trustee Robert McCray

ALSO PRESENT: Park Forest Will County Residents; Sandra Heard from the Monee Township
Assessor's Office

Mayor Ostenburg called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

After a brief introduction to the meeting by Village Manager Mick and Mayor Ostenburg an open session was held to allow residents to ask questions and voice concerns over tax bills and other Village issues.

Residents had questions about their tax bills and the portion of the bill that is assessed for Village services. There were questions about how the bill is calculated for Will County versus Cook County and whether the equalized assessed factors are the same for both counties. Materials from the Assessor's office were made available to the residents; materials included sources residents could contact to receive more information. An overall concern voiced was the increase in property taxes while assessed values of properties had gone down; they were informed this is evident in surrounding communities.

In addition to property taxes and values, the open session included discussion related to the economy, the state of the housing market, and economic development in Park Forest. Residents were concerned over the lack of businesses in the community and the impact this has on the property taxes. The Board responded to the questions with examples of what the Village is doing in the short term and in the long run. Included in the discussion was the redevelopment of Sauk Trail, the opportunities available should an airport come to the south suburbs and the TOD plan. Residents also expressed a concern over vacant properties that had deteriorated; they were informed of the ongoing project with Habitat for Humanity. The Thorn Creek Neighborhood Watch program, the problem with potholes, the plaza on Blackhawk and Norwood Plaza were also discussed. The subject of the Thorn Creek drainage problem was brought up; residents were informed work is still ongoing. IDOT must review the final plan for the bridge and alternative options for the drainage problem are still being considered. In response to the question regarding the final budget the Board advised residents of the steps involved in producing a budget. They were informed there will be several opportunities to attend public sessions before the final budget is approved. Sandra Heard from the Monee Township Assessor's Office was present to inform residents of their options in regards to questions or issues with their tax bills.

In closing the meeting, Mayor Ostenburg welcomed residents to participate in the various boards and commissions including the newly created Mayor's Citizens Advisory Council (maximum of 100 participants.) Trustee Dillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Trustee Kramer seconded the motion; approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Salmen, Recorder

VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

MEMORANDUM

TO: John A. Ostenburg, Mayor
Village Board of Trustees

FROM: Thomas K. Mick,
Village Manager

DATE: September 14, 2011

**RE: A RESOLUTION THANKING AL MARTINEZ FOR HIS
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST**

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

After a long career of dedicated service to the Village of Park Forest, Firefighter Al Martinez will be retiring effective September 11. Attached is a Resolution honoring Al's tenure with the Village and highlighting his accomplishments. The Resolution was drafted, in part, with the assistance of the staff of the Fire Department.

SCHEDULE FOR CONSIDERATION:

This item will be on the Consent Agenda of the September 19 Regular Board Meeting for Board consideration and approval.

RESOLUTION No. _____

**A RESOLUTION THANKING AL MARTINEZ FOR HIS
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST**

- WHEREAS,** Al Martinez began his firefighting career as a member of the Park Forest Fire Department on November 29, 1978, and
- WHEREAS,** Al Martinez was one of the original members of the Park Forest Fire Department to become certified as a paramedic in 1980, and
- WHEREAS,** Al Martinez currently holds the distinction of being the most senior firefighter of our Paid Division, and
- WHEREAS,** Al Martinez during his career with the Fire Department obtained numerous Illinois State Fire Marshal certifications, an Associate's degree in Fire Science from Prairie State College and a Bachelors degree in Fire Management from Southern Illinois University, and
- WHEREAS,** Al Martinez has made it a point throughout his membership with the Fire Department to share his knowledge as an instructor not only within the Department but with the local fire academies as well, and
- WHEREAS,** Al Martinez, touched the lives of many of the residents of Park Forest by teaching Fire Safety in the local schools and serving as a fire inspector, and
- WHEREAS,** Al Martinez has spent a long and distinguished career with the Park Forest Fire Department as a leader, mentor and friend to its members, and
- WHEREAS,** After more than 32 years of service to the citizens of Park Forest, Firefighter/Paramedic Al Martinez recently announced his retirement from the Department to enjoy more time with his wife Amy and the rest of their family.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, that the deepest appreciation of the Board of Trustees, Village Staff and citizens of Park Forest be expressed to Firefighter/Paramedic Albert Martinez upon his retirement for his years of dedicated service to the Village; and that the Village Board and Staff of Park Forest wishes Al a long, happy, healthy retirement during which he enjoys his family, friends and other interests.

ADOPTED this 19th day of September, 2011.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor

Clerk

AGENDA BRIEFING

DATE: September 13, 2011

TO: Mayor John A. Ostenburg
Board of Trustees

FROM: Thomas K. Mick,
Village Manager

RE: **A RESOLUTION BY THE VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST
ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE PEST CONTROL AND PESTICIDE
REDUCTION POLICY**

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Over the past year, or more, the Park Forest Environment Commission has been working diligently toward the establishment of a Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy. Attached to this memo is an overview of the Commission's work on this endeavor followed by the draft policy itself.

As the Board reads over the attached materials, some of the following issues (and answers) might come to mind.

Question: **What impact, if at all, will this resolution have on private property owners? If there is an intended impact on private property, is there a vision wherein citations could be written?**

The reduction in pesticides will apply to Village use on Village owned property and leased property only. This policy will be used to set an example to residents and businesses about reducing their pesticide use and/or follow the Village's example on looking into and using alternative means or methods.

Question: **Who will be the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator?**

Any number of members of Village Staff can be designated as an IPM. Additional decision making will be necessary in the weeks ahead.

As part of the consideration of this item, representatives of Environment Commission and the appropriate Staff Liaisons will be in attendance to present the material and answer any questions as posed by the Village Board.

SCHEDULE FOR CONSIDERATION:

This item will be on the September 19, 2011 Regular Meeting Agenda for approval.

Resolution No. _____

A RESOLUTION BY THE VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE PEST CONTROL AND PESTICIDE REDUCTION POLICY

- WHEREAS,** public health and environmental protection are necessary to promote the general well being and welfare of people, livelihoods and ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS,** the concept of sustainability obligates and compels municipalities to balance concern for the economic, environmental, and social viability of a community by taking a systematic, holistic, and comprehensive approach to its operations; and
- WHEREAS,** pesticides are linked to a variety of known adverse health outcomes in people, as well as detrimental environmental impacts to water, soil, air and wildlife; and
- WHEREAS,** pesticide reduction is a generally accepted and legitimate public policy goal that is consistent with sustainability; and
- WHEREAS,** alternative approaches to conventional pest management exist which effectively control pests while reducing pesticide applications, promote public health and the environment, and save money when utilized consistently and systematically; and
- WHEREAS,** the Village of Park Forest seeks to serve as a model to the public for the use of sustainable pest control practices, including natural lawn care and integrated pest management, as well as increase awareness about such practices; and
- WHEREAS,** the purpose of this Resolution is to reduce the use of pesticides in the Village of Park Forest through the implementation of sustainable pest control practices on Village-owned or –leased property, and to educate the general public as well as the private sector about these practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE Village of Park Forest, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1:

That the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Village of Park Forest Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy to read as follows:

It shall be the policy of the Village of Park Forest to reduce pesticide applications on Village-owned or –leased property to the maximum extent feasible through the implementation of least-toxic integrated pest management techniques. The Village, in carrying out its operations, shall assume that pesticides are potentially hazardous to human and environmental health.

The following words and phrases shall be construed as defined in this section:

Pest:

Any plant, animal, insect, virus, bacteria or other microorganism that occurs where it is not wanted or that causes damage to vegetation or humans or other animals. Pests may

include but are not limited to insects, weeds, rodents and fungi.

Pesticide:

Any substance intended to control, destroy, repel or mitigate a pest. Pesticides include, but are not limited to, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides and any other compounds and organisms, naturally occurring or otherwise, requiring registration or exempt from registration under the *Federal Insecticide, Rodenticide and Fungicide Act* (7. U.S.C. 136) and subsequent regulations under 40 CFR 150-189 as may be amended from time-to-time.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator:

The designated Village representative for pest control activities.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

A pest management technique that gives preference to the safest pest control methods and uses conventional chemical Pesticides only when no other feasible alternative exists. It addresses the underlying causes of pest problems, and seeks to find effective long-term solutions that emphasize prevention. All Village employees, agents, and contractors engaged in IPM activities shall adhere to the provisions of this Resolution. The Village shall designate an IPM Coordinator for the purpose of ensuring the compliance with the provisions of this Resolution. The IPM Coordinator, in consultation with relevant departments, shall develop appropriate language for all Village contracts that require compliance with the provisions of this Resolution. A copy of this Resolution shall be attached to all contracts.

Prohibited Pesticides:

Except for Pesticides granted an exemption pursuant to Section 5, effective six (6) months from the date of enactment of this Resolution, no Village employee, agent, or contractor engaged in IPM activities shall apply the following Pesticides to any Village-owned or –leased property:

- Those classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) as known, probable, likely, possible, or suspected carcinogens;
- Those classified by US EPA as Toxicity Category I and Toxicity Category II Pesticides under 40 CFR 156.62 and 156.64 as may be amended from time-to-time; or
- Chemicals known by the State of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity as published on the Proposition 65 (*Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986*) list pursuant to Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations as may be amended from time-to-time.
- The most current versions of the three lists noted above are adopted by reference. The IPM Coordinator will maintain links to the lists of the Village of Park Forest website. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Resolution, this Resolution shall not apply to the use of Pesticides for the following purposes:

- Anti-microbial Pesticides and hand sanitizers;
- Pesticides used for the purposes of maintaining safe drinking water; treating waste water, sewage or sludge; maintaining heating, cooling and ventilation systems; and those used to maintain water quality in swimming pools;
- Pesticides prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for the control of parasites of wild, domestic, or exotic animals;
- Pesticides classified as minimum risk Pesticides and exempted from registration by the US EPA under 40 CFR 152.25 as may be amended from time-to-time, or those not requiring regulation under the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act* (7 U.S.C. 136) as may be amended from time-to-time;
- Rodenticide baits in tamper-resistant containers or rodenticide baits placed directly into rodent burrows so they are inaccessible to children, pets or wildlife;
- Non-volatile insecticide baits in tamper-resistant containers or placed so they are inaccessible to children, pets, and wildlife;
- Biological or microbial Pesticides;
- Boric acid, disodium tetra hydrate, silica gels, and diatomaceous earth, or structural applications.

Except for Pesticides granted an exemption herein this policy above, effective two (2) years from the date of enactment of this Resolution, no Village employee, agent, or contractor engaged in IPM activities shall apply any Pesticide on Village-owned or Village-leased property unless no other feasible alternative exists.

Except for Pesticides granted an exemption herein this policy, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Resolution, the Village shall comply with the following notification procedures:

- Signs shall be posted immediately following any Pesticide application and remain posted for at least twenty-four (24) hours after application.
- Signs shall be posted at every entry point where the Pesticide is applied if applied in an enclosed area and in highly visible areas around the perimeter if the Pesticide is applied in an open area.
- Signs shall be of a standardized design that is readily visible, easily recognizable and understandable to employees, agents, contractors, and the public.

- Signage shall contain the following information: common name and active ingredient(s) of each Pesticide applied, the target pest, the date and time of Pesticide application, and the name and telephone number of the IPM Coordinator.

In the event that a pest outbreak poses an immediate threat to public health and safety or of significant economic damage to property, notification shall be concurrent with Pesticide application or as soon thereafter as is practical. Pesticides applied to rights-of-way and other areas not used by, or easily accessible to, the public are exempt from the notification provisions of this section. However, where signage is impractical or not required, the IPM Coordinator shall be aware of the common name and active ingredient(s) of each Pesticide applied to such area, the target pest, and the date and time of Pesticide application.

In the event that a pest outbreak poses an immediate threat to public health and safety or threatens to cause significant economic damage to property, the Director of the Park Forest Health Department may grant a waiver of the restrictions in Sections 4 and 6, not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Each Village department or agency that uses Pesticides shall keep records of all Pesticide management activities for at least three (3) years or as required by state and federal law, whichever is greater. These records shall include the following information: target pest, common name, active ingredient and quantity of Pesticide used; EPA registration number, where applicable; date of application; non-pesticide control methods used; proof of notification; and any exemptions granted by the IPM Coordinator.

Effective one (1) year from the date of enactment of this Resolution and every two (2) years thereafter, the IPM coordinator shall submit a report on the Village's use of Pesticides and Pesticide reduction efforts to the Board of Trustees for review.

The IPM Coordinator, or another qualified agency or organization selected by the IPM Coordinator, shall conduct at least one training session every three (3) years for relevant department managers and staff responsible for pest control or the use of any Pesticide on Village-owned or –leased property regarding this Resolution, sustainable pest management practices and Village outreach efforts. All contractors engaged in pest control activities on Village-owned or –leased property shall be required to attend such training sessions and meetings or shall provide proof of equivalent education.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to usurp state and federal authority, or that of the South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District, controlling the registration and application of Pesticides, whether for public health purposes, mosquito abatement, private sector applications or otherwise. All uses of Pesticides must be in accordance with the applicable state and federal laws.

SECTION 2:

That the Village Manager is hereby authorized and directed to implement the Village of Park Forest Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy.

SECTION 3:

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2011.

John A. Ostenburg, Mayor

Sheila McGann, Village Clerk



June 6, 2011

To: Mayor Ostenburg, Village Trustees, Tom Mick, Village Manager

From: Park Forest Environment Commission

Subject: Submission of Draft Village of Park Forest Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy

Background

In 2010, the Commissioners of the Park Forest Environment Commission became increasingly aware that the use of pesticides has been linked to a variety of known adverse health outcomes in people, as well as the detrimental environmental impacts to water soil, air and wildlife. While attending various forums addressing this issue, the Commissioners came to the conclusion that it would be in the best interest to the residents of the Village of Park Forest to educate them on the potential adverse impacts of pesticide use, alternative methods that could be used in lieu of chemical pesticides, and find a way for the Village to serve as the model to the public for the use of sustainable pest control practices.

To that end, the Commission has undertaken the following activities:

- January 2010 – Briefed the Village Board on the issue;
- April 2010 – Facilitated an educational forum on ‘Proper Use of Pesticides/Herbicides in the Garden’ conducted by Amy Mysz, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Chicago Regional Office and Emily Kenny, Multidisciplinary Education for the Environment (ME4E);
- April 2010 – Participated in Municipal Pesticide Reduction Webinar sponsored by Safer Pest Control Project;
- October 2010 – Co-sponsored the screening of the film ‘A Chemical Reaction’ with Governors State University and Thorn Creek Audubon Society. Discussion held following screening led by panelists Steve Pinkuspy, Safer Pest Control Project, Michelle O’Connor, Thorn Creek Audubon Society, and Carl Caneva, Division Manager, Environmental Health, Evanston Health Department.
- April 2011 – Co-sponsored the screening and discussion of the film ‘A Chemical Reaction’ with Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUCC);
- May 2011 – Co-sponsored the screening and discussion of the film ‘The Vanishing Bees’ with UUCC; and

- Began drafting the Village of Park Forest Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy based on the policy implemented in April 2010 by the City of Evanston (copy provided as Attachment A).

Development of the Draft Village of Park Forest Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy

The draft policy being presented to the Village Board was developed following review of the Evanston ordinance (copy provided as Attachment B). The Evanston ordinance was developed with input from Carl Caneva, Environmental Health, Evanston Health Department, Rachel Rosenberg, Executive Director, Safer Pest Control Project, and Steve Pinkuspy, Senior Program Associate, Safer Pest Control Project. Both Carl Caneva and Steve Pinkuspy provided input to the Environment Commission during the development of the draft Park Forest policy. It should be noted that in order to be compliant with the Illinois home rule legislative provisions, the draft policy only relates to Village owned or maintained property.

In the fall of 2010, the Commissioners interviewed Scott Roberts, Region Technical Manager, Trugreen and Rick Manning, Service Manager, Trugreen to determine what products were available in lieu of the current chemical products being utilized.

Commissioners reviewed the Federal and state laws and regulations referenced in the Evanston ordinance and pertinent sections of the Illinois Constitution. Specifically:

- Federal Insecticide, Rodenticide and Fungicide Act (7. U.S.C. 136):
<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/lfra.html>
- 40 CFR 150-189: http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title40/40cfrv23_02.tpl
- California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986
<http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65law72003.html>
- Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations:
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Laws/Regulations/Title27/>
- IL Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1597&ChapAct=415%EF%BF%BDILCS%EF%BF%BD65/&ChapterID=36&ChapterName=ENVIRONMENTAL>
- Article VII (Local Government) of the Illinois Constitution
www.ilga.gov/commission/lrb/con7.htm

The draft Village of Park Forest Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy was reviewed and revised based on comments from the Commissioners, Trustee Liaison Mae Brandon, John Joyce, Director of Recreation, and Parks and Rob Gunther, Parks Superintendent, Village of Park Forest.

Conclusion

The Commission respectfully submits this draft ordinance to the Village Board for further action. We look forward to the Board enacting this ordinance as part of the Village's Sustainability Plan.

AGENDA BRIEFING

DATE: September 14, 2011

TO: Mayor John Ostenburg
Board of Trustees

FROM: Hildy L. Kingma, AICP
Director of Economic Development & Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution to Authorize Initiation of Phase Two of the FRA Quiet Zone Assistance Project

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Baxter & Woodman Consulting presented their finding from the first phase of the Quiet Zone Assistance Project to the Board of Trustees at the September 6, 2011, Board Rules meeting. At that time, the Board of Trustees agreed that it is appropriate to initiate Phase Two of the Federal Railroad Administration ("FRA") Quiet Zone Assistance project in order to establish a full quiet zone at the Western Avenue railroad crossing.

The Quiet Zone Assistance Project has been funded by the Grand Trunk Corporation (known more commonly as CN) as part of their Voluntary Mitigation Agreement with the Village. Phase One of the scope of work for this study included all the steps required by the FRA to determine the feasibility of establishing a quiet zone at the CN/Western Avenue railroad crossing. Phase Two of the study includes conducting a Diagnostic Team meeting at the site to confirm the findings of the Phase One report, filing a Notice of Intent to create a new quiet zone with the FRA, and filing a Notice of Establishment of the quiet zone once all comments received have been addressed. The consulting engineer will also assist the Village with the selection and location of proper signage for the new quiet zone.

SCHEDULE FOR CONSIDERATION: The Board will consider this item at the Regular meeting on Monday, September 19, 2011.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INITIATION OF PHASE TWO OF THE FRA
QUIET ZONE ASSISTANCE PROJECT AND THE SUBMITTAL OF A NOTICE OF
INTENT TO ESTABLISH A FULL QUIET ZONE AT WESTERN AVENUE**

WHEREAS, the Village of Park Forest (“the Village”) and the Grand Trunk Corporation (“GTC”) have entered into a Voluntary Mitigation Agreement in which the GTC agreed to finance consulting support in order for the Village to examine the feasibility and desirability of establishing a quiet zone at the Western Avenue railroad crossing; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved Resolution R-11-10 authorizing execution of an engineering services agreement with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers for a Federal Railroad Administration (“FRA”) Quiet Zone Assistance Project; and

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2011, after a presentation on the Phase One report, the Board of Trustees agreed that a full quiet zone at the Western Avenue railroad crossing is the preferred course of action.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, in the exercise of their home rule authority, as follows:

SECTION 1: The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth.

SECTION 2: The Village Manager is authorized to initiate Phase Two of the engineering services agreement with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers, and to initiate all actions necessary to submit a Notice of Intent and Notice of Establishment to the Federal Railroad Administration for a full quiet zone at the Western Avenue railroad crossing.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2011.

APPROVED:

Village Mayor

ATTEST:

Village Clerk

MEMORANDUM



Mokena Office
8840 W 192nd Street
Mokena, IL 60448
Phone: 708.478.2090
Fax: 708.478.8710

Corporate Website: www.baxterwoodman.com e-mail: info@baxterwoodman.com

DATE: August 31, 2011

TO: Hildy Kingma, AICP - Village of Park Forest

FROM: Christine Code, P.E.

SUBJECT: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Quiet Zone Study

The Village of Park Forest is concerned with the potential impacts of increased rail traffic through the Village with the recent Canadian National purchase of the EJ&E Railroad. The goal is to consider establishing a Quiet Zone at the Western Avenue (see exhibit 1) grade crossing in accordance with the FRA Rule to mitigate the effects of increased train horn noise.

Baxter & Woodman, Inc. was hired to assist the Village with the establishment of a FRA Quiet Zone for the at-grade crossing of the Canadian National Railroad and Western Avenue. The goal of this study is to determine the extent of crossing improvements needed to establish a quiet zone in the Village of Park Forest.

WHAT IS A FRA QUIET ZONE?

A quiet zone is a section of a rail line that contains one or more consecutive railroad crossings at which Locomotive horns are not routinely sounded. A new quiet zone must be at least ½ mile in length and have at least one public highway-rail grade crossing. A quiet zone can be established to cover a full 24-hour period or only during the overnight period from 10:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M (partial quiet zone).

There are exceptions to the no-horn rule. Within an established quiet zone, it does not mean that a train will never sound its horn. The Engineers are permitted to sound the horn in a quiet zone if they believe that a situation exists that warrants operation of the horn, such as the presence of pedestrians or animals crossing over the tracks. Under federal regulations, engineers must sound the horn to warn railroad maintenance employees or contractors working on the tracks.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the results of the FRA calculations and to present an overview of the quiet zone project.

In order to qualify for a quiet zone, each crossing must first meet the minimum requirements for a quiet zone. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) states that in order for an at-grade crossing to be quiet zone eligible, it must have active warning devices with flashing lights and two quadrant vehicle gates. It must also be equipped with constant warning time (CWT) devices. Based on our field review, the Western Avenue crossing within the proposed Park Forest quiet zone has these devices in place.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Create grade crossing inventory forms for submittal to Federal Railroad administration, *(completed)*
- Obtain traffic data to update the existing Average Daily Traffic volumes, *(completed)*
- Verify existing traffic control, geometric conditions, Supplemental Safety Measures (SSM), railroad equipment, and warning devices, *(completed)*
- Determine the Quiet Zone Risk Index for the Western Avenue crossing, *(completed)*
- Obtain public input, *(completed)*
- Diagnostic Team meeting at project site with representatives from ICC, IDOT, FRA, the Village of Park Forest and the Canadian National Railroad and prepare meeting minutes, *(pending)*
- Submit Notice of Intent to create a Quiet Zone filed with FRA, *(pending)*
- Developing and construction of railroad crossing improvements, *(pending)*
- File Notice of Establishment of Quiet Zone with the FRA. *(pending)*

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF QUIET ZONE CALCULATOR

A Quiet Zone is created by implementing a Supplemental Safety Measure (SSM) that gives the same level of risk reduction that is provided by the train horn. For every crossing in the country, the FRA assigns a Risk Index (a numerical measure of the risk of accidents). The Risk Index is based on a number of factors, including daily vehicle traffic, number of trains per day, number of highway lanes, number of train tracks, roadway geometrics and train speed. The Risk Index at each crossing within a quiet zone will be higher or lower depending on those factors listed above. Within a quiet zone not every at-grade crossing is required to have a SSM installed; it would depend on the pre-project risk index.

Baxter & Woodman, Inc. obtained the existing Average Daily Traffic volumes in the FRA crossing inventory and the projected train traffic. Baxter & Woodman, Inc. also verified existing traffic control, geometric conditions, railroad equipment, warning devices and Supplemental Safety Measures at the Western Avenue crossing.

Using the FRA's online Quiet Zone Calculator, we determined the Quiet Zone Risk Index for the Western Avenue crossing. Based on our calculations, the Quiet Zone Risk Index is higher than the Risk Index with Horns prior to the implementation of supplemental safety measures. The Risk Index with Horns (RIWH) measures the increased risk at a grade crossing due to the removal of the train horn, and identifies the specific amount of risk reduction necessary to exactly offset the loss of the train horn.

IDOT constructed a concrete curbed median in 2007 on both sides of the Western Avenue crossing (see exhibits 2 & 3). We measured the curb height where the crossing gate comes down and it measured at 4 inches. Per FRA guidelines, the concrete median has to be a minimum of 6 inches in height at the location where the crossing gates are lowered to be considered a Supplemental Safety Measure (SSM). The FRA will require 100 feet of reflective channelization panels (see attached photos) to be installed on each side of the crossing on top of the existing concrete curbed median to be considered as a SSM. The railroad, Canadian National (CN), will be required to pay for the reflective channelization panels and the installation costs so there would be no additional cost for the Village.

The FRA will also require a separate submittal for the risk reduction calculations due to the existing commercial entrance on the northeast side of the tracks. The FRA requires a reduced effectiveness rate in the quiet zone calculations due to the driveway entrance being within 60 feet of the crossing gate. The reduced effectiveness rate used in the calculations would have to be approved by the FRA and the 100 feet of reflective channelization panels will be considered as an Alternate Safety Measure (ASM). Ultimately, the improvements must provide enough risk reduction to qualify the crossing for a quiet zone. The reduced effectiveness rate for an ASM is not specified in the federal register rules. We would estimate the reduced effectiveness rate and determine that the Quiet Zone Risk Index will be below the RIWH which would qualify for a quiet zone. At the end of the FRA analysis, we believe that they will concur with our findings that the reduced effective rate for the ASM (100 feet of reflective channelization panels) will reduce the Quiet Zone Risk Index at the Western Avenue crossing below the RIWH threshold and allow a Quiet Zone to be installed at this location.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public outreach meeting was held to inform the public that the Village is in the planning process to create a new Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Quiet Zone. The meeting provided Park Forest residents and property owners and others impacted by the at-grade railroad crossing to examine the exhibits and provide feedback that can be taken into consideration during the development of the quiet zone. The public provided feedback and comments during the meeting. A large majority of the residents at the meeting were in favor of establishing a quiet zone. Further review of the public comment forms confirmed that a large majority of the residents are in favor of a establishing a quiet zone at Western Avenue (see exhibit 4).

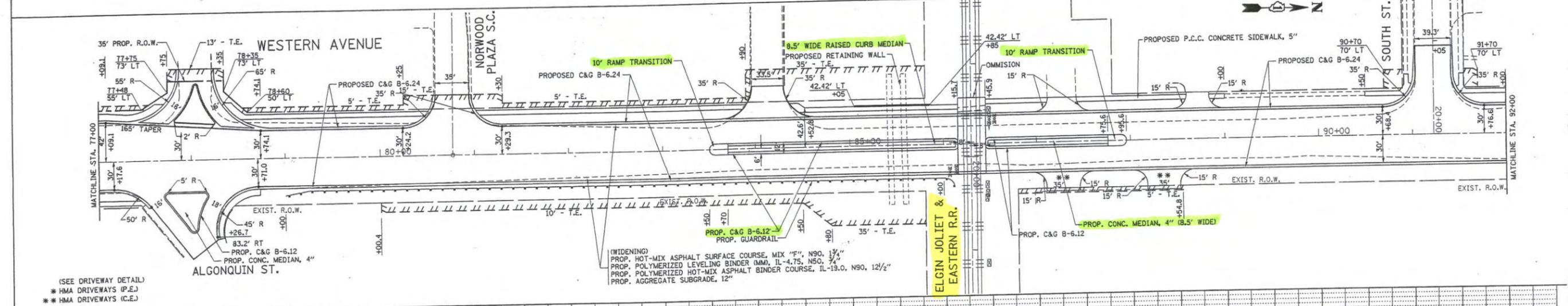
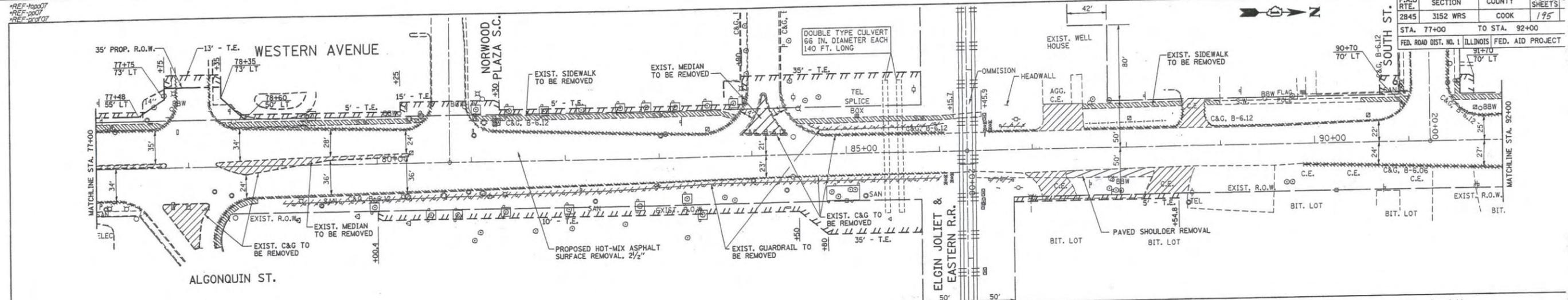
SUMMARY

In conclusion, we have prepared an initial study for the Village to establish a quiet zone at the Western Avenue at-grade rail crossing within the Village of Park Forest. If installation of the quiet zone is approved by the Village Board, the next step would be to coordinate a meeting of a site Diagnostic Team consisting of representatives from the ICC, IDOT, FRA, the Village of Park Forest and the Canadian National Railroad. The Diagnostic Team will perform a site evaluation and confirmation of all the information submitted on the Grade Crossing Inventory Form and Quiet Zone Calculator. We will then record the discussion of the Diagnostic Team, including any proposed corrections to the Grade Crossing Inventory Form and recommended crossing improvements; prepare minutes for the meeting and distribute to all parties; submit the ASM calculations to the FRA for review and approval; and submit any necessary Quiet Zone establishment notifications and forms to the appropriate agencies in order to assist the Village in establishing the Quiet Zone. The application approval takes approximately 3 months. We will prepare a Notice of Intent to Create a New Quiet Zone document and submit it to all appropriate parties for a 60-day comment period after the application has been approved. The Notice of Intent will include updated crossing inventory form, Quiet Zone Calculator output, minutes of the diagnostic team meeting, and the response to any review comments received by the FRA and ICC. After the 60 day comment period expires, we will prepare a response to any comments received, assist the Village with the selection and location of proper signage for the new Quiet Zone, and file a Notice of New Quiet Zone establishment document with all appropriate parties.

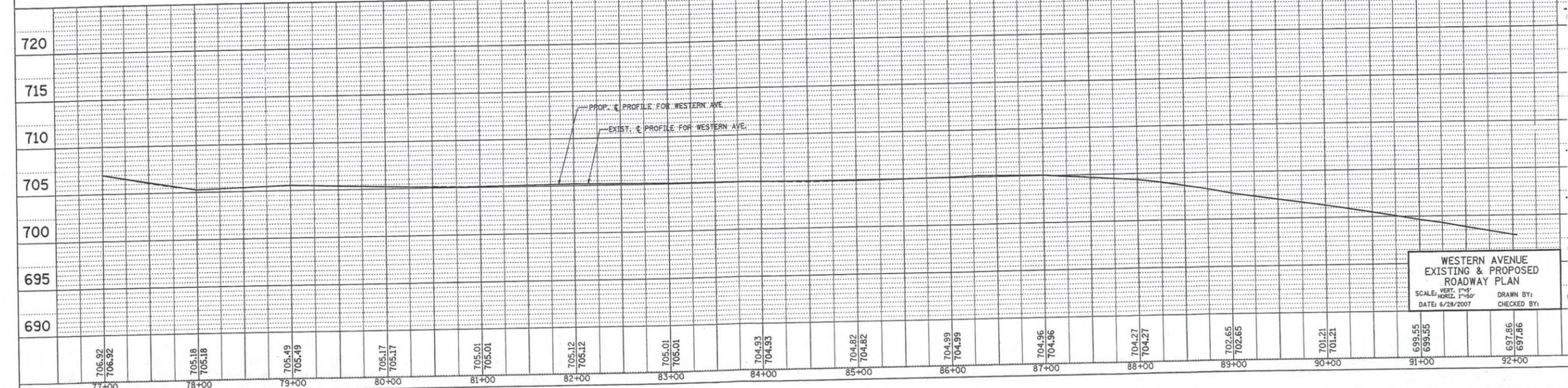
-END-

F.A.U. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS
2845	3152 WRS	COOK	195
STA. 77+00		TO STA. 92+00	
FED. ROAD DIST. NO. 1		ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT	

*REF-100007
*REF-10007
*REF-100107



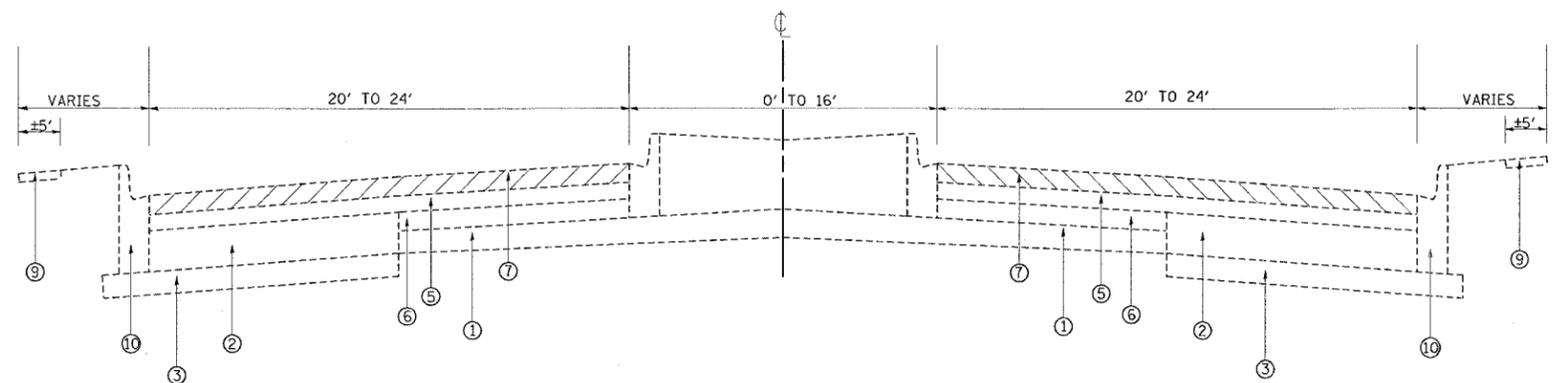
(SEE DRIVEWAY DETAIL)
* HMA DRIVEWAYS (P.E.)
** HMA DRIVEWAYS (C.E.)



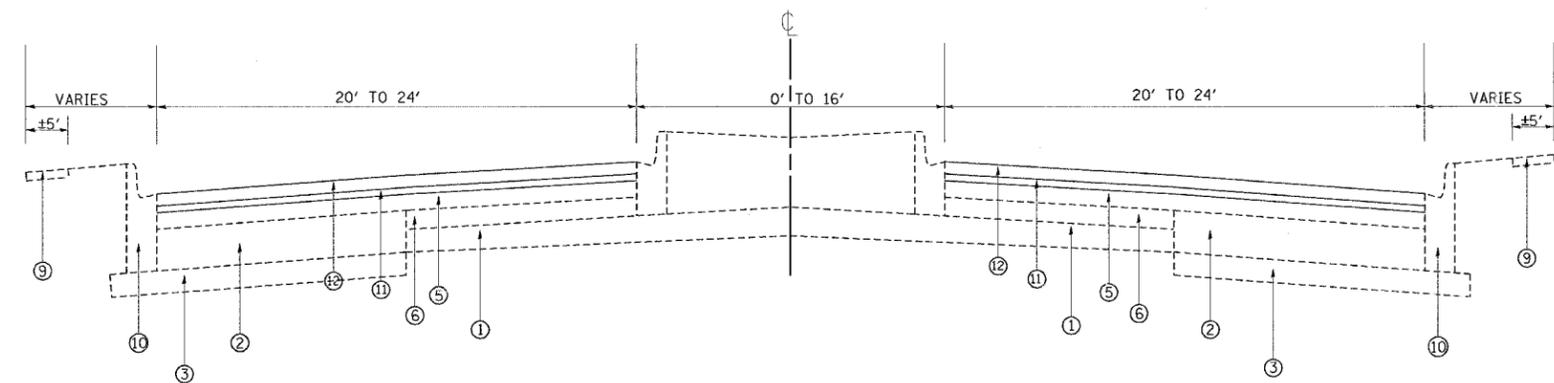
WESTERN AVENUE
EXISTING & PROPOSED
ROADWAY PLAN
SCALE: VERT. 1"=50'
DATE: 6/28/2007
DRAWN BY:
CHECKED BY:

706.92	706.92	705.18	705.18	705.49	705.49	705.17	705.17	705.01	705.01	705.12	705.12	705.01	705.01	704.93	704.93	704.82	704.82	704.99	704.99	704.96	704.96	704.27	704.27	702.65	702.65	701.21	701.21	699.55	699.55	697.86	697.86
77+00	78+00	79+00	80+00	81+00	82+00	83+00	84+00	85+00	86+00	87+00	88+00	89+00	90+00	91+00	92+00																

F.A.U. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEET NO.
2845	3152 WRS	COOK	195 15
STA.		TO STA.	
FED. ROAD DIST. NO.		ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT	



EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION
STA. 219+10 TO STA. 14+10



PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION
STA. 219+10 TO STA. 14+10

LEGEND

- ① EXISTING P.C.C PAVEMENT (7"-9")
- ② EXISTING PCC WIDENING (7")
- ③ EXISTING AGGREGATE SUBGRADE
- ④ EXISTING STABILIZED MEDIAN TO BE REMOVED
- ⑤ EXISTING HMA. AFTER MILLING SURFACE
- ⑥ EXISTING HMA. BASE COURSE
- ⑦ PROP. HOT-MIX ASPHALT SURFACE REMOVAL, 2 1/2"
- ⑧ EXISTING CURB & GUTTER TO BE REMOVED
- ⑨ EXISTING SIDEWALK
- ⑩ EXISTING CURB & GUTTER, TYPE B-6.24
- ⑪ PROP. POLYMERIZED LEVELING BINDER (MM), IL-4.75, N50, 3/4"
- ⑫ PROP. POLYMERIZED HOT-MIX ASPHALT SURFACE COURSE, MIX "F", N90, 1 3/4"
- ⑬ PROP. AGGREGATE SUBGRADE, 12"
- ⑭ PROP. POLYMERIZED HOT-MIX ASPHALT BINDER COURSE, IL-19, N90, 12 1/2" (4" LIFTS)
- ⑮ PROP. CURB & GUTTER, TYPE B-6.24
- ⑯ PROP HOT-MIX ASPHALT BINDER COURSE, IL-19, N50, 2 1/4"
- ⑰ PROP. HOT-MIX ASPHALT BASE COURSE, 8"
- ⑱ PROP. PCC SIDEWALK, 5" VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SEE PLANS FOR DETAILS
- ⑲ PROP. HOT-MIX ASPHALT SURFACE COURSE, MIX "C", N50, 1 1/2"
- ⑳ PROP. PGES 12"
- ㉑ PROP PIPE UNDERDRAINS 6"

PLOT DATE = 6/29/2007
 FILE NAME = c:\projects\14469\design\adgn
 PLOT SCALE = 50.0000 / 1" = 50'
 USER NAME = emaris

REVISIONS	
NAME	DATE

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**WESTERN AVE.
(16TH ST. TO STEGER.)
EXISTING AND PROPOSED
TYPICAL SECTION**

SCALE: VERT. NONE
HORIZ. DATE

DRAWN BY
CHECKED BY

Public Meeting Questions and Answers

Written and oral comments were received at public meeting that was held on July 11, 2011. Below are a list of the types of concerns and comments made by the attendees, along with answers provided by Park Forest to address these questions:

- 1. We need to eliminate horns at the Western Avenue crossing as previously done in the Village of Frankfort. This is the same train that passes through Frankfort. It took Frankfort approximately 2 years to accomplish the “quiet zone”. I hope this is not going to take Park Forest that long?**
- 2. I live at 329 Todd Street and I can hear the excessive horn blowing at night and it either awakens me or keeps me awake. I am in favor of a partial Quiet Zone.**
- 3. By all means implement a quiet zone (24 Hour) as soon as possible. Thank you for the opportunity for the residents to express their opinions and the elected officials responses (especially Village Manager Tom Micks).**
- 4. I am in favor of the quiet zone.**
- 5. Quiet Zone needed and appreciated.**
- 6. Please, Please, Please a quiet zone is very necessary! The engineers blow their horns sometimes 5 times at 3:00 am as it's very annoying. Could you please also try to implement a “Noise Free Zone” on Western Avenue – this is due to all the loud music from the vehicles waiting for the trains. It has gotten so bad that while sitting outside on my patio we can't have a conversation due to all that noise. Also the pollution from the vehicles is terrible. Please help us.**
- 7. Prefer Full Quiet Zone.**
- 8. Incorrect use of horn signal approaching and crossing Western Avenue. Excessive Noise and Vibration from front wheels and dragging brakes.**
- 9. Full ban – Please!**
- 10. Please put in place a quiet zone. For years the noise has been and still is unhealthy. My granddaughter comes to visit and the noise does not permit her to sleep through the night. My home shakes from the train noise.**
- 11. I am in favor of horn quiet zone.**
- 12. Although I do not live close to the other residents affected by the train horn noise, I do believe that a Quiet Zone would be beneficial for Village residents.**

**Public Meeting
Questions and Answers**

- 13. As of now I can't have my bedroom window open at night due to very loud train horn waking me up. More trains coming up would mean less sleep for me. No Please – A quiet zone- at least at night! 24 Hour Quiet Zone even better! I think most in my co-op (Ash Street) feels the same.**

- 14. Will help.**

- 15. We are in favor of a quiet zone.**

- 16. I have seen yellow curb stuff with black and yellow striped panels used at railroad crossing and it seems to work well. You should look into this for our quiet zone.**

- 17. I think that not allowing the trains to sound their horns when approaching a crossing would be a horrible mistake. The horns on trains are a safety feature to warn people that a train is approaching. The safety of citizens is far more important than hearing the noise for a few minutes during the day or night. Trains have been sounding their horns since before there were crossing gates and lights and why now it's such a big inconvenience to hear the noise momentarily I don't understand. I know that many other towns have these quiet zones, but I would hope that you would take the safety of the people into consideration. We all know that crossing gates and or lights can malfunction. So for the safety of the public I think the trains should be able to continue to sound their horns.**

- 18. As a resident on Ash Street which is very close to the railroad tracks, I hear the train horns at full blast. When I moved here I knew there would be noise. Each time I hear the horn, I know we're being warned of an approaching train. Some trains don't make as much noise as others. When I hear it more than three times, I assume someone is on the tracks. I don't want the trains to be silenced. If the gate should malfunction the person at the crossing may not hear or see the train until it is too late. That happened in Richton Park a year or so ago and a vibrant young lady lost her life.**



APL

45

APL

GESEA

TTX

RAIL CROSSING
CROSS ROAD
2 TRACKS

125 T



TRUCK
WEIGHT LIMIT
OVER
20,000 LBS GVWR
PROHIBITED
**STRICTLY
ENFORCED**

