

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: April 14, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Terence Acquah, Assistant Village Manager

Topic: Crosswalk Engineering for Phase II of the Downtown Crosswalk Improvement Plan

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting approval of a professional services agreement with HR Green, Inc., of New Lenox, Illinois, for engineering and design services associated with Phase II of the Downtown Crosswalk Improvement Plan. This phase will advance the construction of high-visibility crosswalks throughout the downtown area.

This initiative builds upon the Village's 2024 Downtown Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Master Plan, which identifies key pedestrian enhancements to improve safety, connectivity, and support ongoing economic development.

The proposed scope of work includes detailed engineering and design for five crosswalk locations, along with ADA-accessible curb ramps at key intersections, including Olive Road, Hickory Road, Gottschalk Avenue, Highland Avenue, Gladville Avenue, Ridge Road, and Dixie Highway. The project will also incorporate enhanced pedestrian safety features, such as solar-powered rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) and fully ADA-compliant infrastructure improvements.

PROCESS

Background

At the July 8, 2025 Board meeting, the Village Board approved the selection of HR Green, Inc. to provide engineering and design services in the amount of \$24,095. This effort, designated as "Phase I," was initiated following the identification of priority crosswalk improvements in the Village's Downtown Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Master Plan, with the goal of enhancing pedestrian safety and connectivity within the downtown area.

The importance of these improvements has grown since the Village Board authorized staff to negotiate the sale of Village-owned properties at 2066 Ridge Road and 2024 Chestnut Road for a proposed mixed-use development. This anticipated increase in pedestrian activity further reinforces the need for safe, accessible, and well-designed crossings.

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The Phase I scope included improvements at the following intersections:

- Harwood Avenue and Ridge Road
- Ridge Road and Martin Avenue (east intersection)
- Chestnut Road and Harwood Avenue
- Dixie Highway and Chestnut Road

Since approval, HR Green, Inc. has completed the design work and is currently awaiting final permitting from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Upon receipt of the required permits, the Village will finalize bid documents and solicit bids to initiate construction. Staff anticipates that the permit review process will be completed within the next several weeks.

Phase II and Grant Funding

Advancement into “Phase II” was made possible as a result of Phase I being completed under budget (\$24,095 paid of the \$75,000 budget) and approval of a budget amendment at the December 9, 2025 Board meeting allocating an additional \$50,000 to support continued engineering efforts, while also actively pursuing external funding to help offset project costs. The total available and remaining funding for the engineering efforts is \$100,905.

The Village subsequently applied for funding through the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Access to Transit Phase I Engineering Program. Through this program, the RTA will reimburse up to \$55,000 in engineering costs, covering up to 100% of eligible expenses.

The additional capital funding and the RTA funding allows the Village to expand the project and address additional high-priority locations.

Based on their importance within the downtown network and connectivity to key destinations, staff identified the following intersections for Phase II improvements:

1. Dixie Highway and Olive Road
2. Dixie Highway and Hickory Road
3. Ridge Road and Gottschalk Avenue
4. Ridge Road and Highland Avenue
5. Ridge Road and Gladville Avenue

This funding will significantly offset Village costs associated with three priority crosswalk locations: Dixie Highway and Olive Road, Dixie Highway and Hickory Road, and Ridge Road and Gottschalk Avenue. These locations were strategically selected due to their importance in providing safe and accessible pedestrian connections from surrounding neighborhoods to the Metra station and the downtown area.

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Selection of the Engineering Firm

Rather than issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select an engineering firm, as typically required under the State of Illinois Qualifications-Based Selection Act (50 ILCS 510/6) for projects exceeding \$50,000, the Village has elected to continue services with HR Green, Inc. This approach is permissible under State statute, as HR Green previously completed Phase I of the project and has demonstrated familiarity with the scope, existing conditions, and project objectives.

OUTCOME

High visibility crosswalks and accessible pedestrian infrastructure are essential tools in promoting public safety. These upgrades will improve visibility for both pedestrians and drivers, reduce the likelihood of accidents, and ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The addition of solar-powered beacons will provide further protection by drawing attention to pedestrians crossing busy intersections.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** General Capital
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$100,905
- **Engineering and Design Services Cost:** not to exceed \$100,000

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the Village Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with HR Green, Inc. of New Lenox, IL in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for Phase II of engineering and design services related to the design and installation of high visibility crosswalks in the downtown area.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Agreement