

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: July 8, 2025

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Terence Acquah, Assistant Village Manager

Topic: Crosswalk Engineering Contract agreement/HR Green LLC

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting approval of a professional services agreement with HR Green, Inc of New Lenox, IL for engineering and design work related to the construction of high-visibility crosswalks in the downtown area. This initiative follows the Village's 2024 Downtown Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Master Plan, which outlines pedestrian improvements to support safety, connectivity, and economic growth. The proposed work includes detailed engineering for five crosswalks and 10 ADA-accessible curb ramps at key intersections, including Ridge Road, Harwood Avenue, Chestnut Road, Martin Avenue, and Dixie Highway. The project will also include enhanced safety features like solar-powered flashing beacons and ADA-compliant ramps.

PROCESS

In 2024, the Village passed the Downtown Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Master Plan, which provided recommendations for filling gaps in Homewood's downtown pedestrian network. These improvements were strategically developed in partnership with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Muse Consultants, and CivilTech Engineers to improve pedestrian safety and convenience, promote safe vehicle operation, and support future mixed-use development in the downtown. As prescribed in the plan, crosswalks are also needed to improve connectivity in the downtown, linking surrounding parking areas and residential neighborhoods to downtown Homewood. The proposed pedestrian improvements are essential for cultivating functional and sustainable transit-oriented development in Homewood.

Downtown Homewood is experiencing rapid growth, with several commercial and mixed-use developments in progress or planned to begin in the next two to three years. These developments will include multiple large restaurants and several mixed-use projects (residential/commercial), all of which will add significant foot traffic to the downtown area. Supporting increased foot traffic will require significant improvements to existing infrastructure, especially along Ridge Road and Harwood Avenue where many of these developments are proposed. The largest of these developments, proposed to be located on the site of the existing Village Hall parking lot, will shift parking for the Village Hall and other municipal buildings across Dixie Highway. Substantial improvements are needed to support safe travel between the new

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



parking areas and municipal buildings. The seven crosswalks proposed represent essential links for supporting continued transit-oriented development in the downtown.

The project involves the engineering design and bid document preparation for a series of pedestrian safety improvements at key downtown intersections. Specifically, the work will focus on five crosswalks and 10 associated ADA-accessible curb ramps. These intersections include:

- Harwood Ave. and Ridge Rd. – one (1) crossing with two (2) ADA ramp improvements.
- Ridge Rd. and Martin Ave. (east intersection) – one (1) crossing with two (2) ADA ramp improvements.
- Chestnut Rd. and Harwood Ave. – two (2) crossings with four (4) ADA ramp improvements.
- Dixie Hwy. and Chestnut Rd. – one (1) crossing with two (2) ADA ramp improvements.

Improvements at these locations will include the installation of high visibility crosswalk striping, ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps, updated signage, and solar-powered flashing beacon assemblies to enhance pedestrian safety. HR Green will also perform a topographic survey, prepare detailed construction drawings, develop special provisions, and assist with the Illinois Department of Transportation permit application for improvements at Dixie Highway, which falls under State jurisdiction. Additionally, the firm will support the Village throughout the bidding process by providing bid documents, answering contractor inquiries, and reviewing submitted bids.

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:** \$75,000
- **Engineering and Design Services Cost:** not to exceed \$24,095

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 \$24,095 for engineering and design services related to the construction of high visibility crosswalks in the downtown area.

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



ATTACHMENT(S)

- Work Breakdown Structure
- Agreement