

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: June 10, 2025

**To:** Village President and Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Joshua Burman, Director of Public Works

**Topic:** Jurisdictional Transfer of Harwood Avenue (Pine Road to Ridge Road)

### PURPOSE

Staff is requesting that the Village Board consider approving an agreement for a Jurisdictional Transfer of a portion of Harwood Avenue from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to the Village of Homewood.

This transfer would apply to the section of Harwood Avenue from Pine Road to Ridge Road. By assuming ownership of this roadway, the Village will gain greater control over future improvements, maintenance, and planning efforts along this critical corridor. This transfer aligns with long-term goals related to economic development, infrastructure improvements, and downtown revitalization and will provide the Village with increased flexibility to support redevelopment initiatives and enhance public parking opportunities in the downtown area.

### PROCESS

A jurisdictional transfer refers to the formal process of transferring ownership and maintenance responsibility of a roadway from one government agency to another—typically between IDOT and a local municipality. This process is guided by IDOT’s Highway Jurisdiction Guidelines, which outline the steps and legal requirements for such transfers. A jurisdictional transfer may occur when a road no longer serves a statewide function and is better managed at the local level, or vice versa. The transfer includes responsibilities such as maintenance, snow removal, repairs, and improvements. It requires mutual agreement between the involved parties and is often formalized through a resolution or intergovernmental agreement.

In 2023, Public Works staff initiated the process of acquiring the right-of-way along Harwood Avenue in response to a planned development within the Village Hall parking lot. As part of a broader effort to support economic development and expand parking opportunities in the downtown area, it became necessary for the Village to pursue the transfer of ownership of this roadway segment from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

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### *Benefits of Jurisdiction over Harwood Avenue*

With this transfer, the Village would gain full control over road maintenance and related improvements—such as parking modifications, closures, signage, lighting upgrades, and landscaping enhancements—without needing to seek IDOT approval or permits. This autonomy would streamline future development efforts and allow the Village to more efficiently tailor infrastructure investments to community needs.

The Village would have the authority to modify traffic patterns, enhance pedestrian safety, improve lighting and signage, and better integrate streetscape features that align with local development goals. The transfer also enables the Village to directly plan and execute projects that support downtown revitalization, such as adding angled parking (*20 to 24 new parking spaces*), widening sidewalks, or installing green infrastructure—all of which were previously constrained by IDOT regulations and approval processes.

Furthermore, this jurisdictional transfer supports the Village's long-term strategic vision by streamlining future permitting and coordination processes for redevelopment projects adjacent to Harwood Avenue. As a result, Homewood can more efficiently attract and support commercial investments, improve the pedestrian experience, and expand public parking options critical to the success of nearby businesses and civic facilities.

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### *IDOT's Contribution*

To move forward with the transfer, IDOT conducted a “*present worth value*” calculation, which considered the physical condition of the roadway and the estimated future maintenance costs. Based on this analysis, the segment of Harwood Avenue from Pine Road to Ridge Road was assigned a value of \$12,000, which would be deposited as a one-time *lump sum total* to the Village’s Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund.

### OUTCOME

Approval of this transfer will ensure that the Village has control over a critical roadway in the downtown business district, including a one-way traffic pattern from Dixie Highway to Ridge Road, and increased street parking along Harwood Avenue. By accepting jurisdiction over this segment of Harwood Avenue, the Village gains autonomy to implement infrastructure improvements and urban design changes without the delays typically associated with State-level approvals.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

### LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

### RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the Village President to enter into an agreement for the jurisdictional transfer of Harwood Avenue, from Pine Road to Ridge Road, from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to the Village of Homewood, providing the Village with direct control over a critical roadway in the heart of the downtown business district.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

- Jurisdictional Transfer Map
- Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement
- Bureau of Local Roads (BLR) - Form 05210