VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD

BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM   **DATE OF MEETING: February 27, 2024**

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: John Schaefer, Director of Public Works

Topic: Village of Homewood Statement of Support – Restriping Dixie Highway to create a three-lane cross section that includes accommodations for on-street bicycles

PURPOSE

The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Multi-Year Improvement Program (MYP) provides residents and IDOT stakeholders with an improvement plan for Illinois' transportation system within a proposed six-year program. IDOT understands that the department needs to look at a full range of transportation options, evaluate how they affect mobility for users, assess the current infrastructure, prioritize needed improvements based on system performance metrics and then, with available revenue sources, strive to integrate them into the overall IDOT transportation funding strategy. Homewood has a major flooding mitigation project that has been assigned to the current multi-year improvement program. The Dixie Highway viaduct flooding mitigation project proposes to correct the flooding issues that have plagued the viaduct for a number of years. As part of the project, IDOT is requesting to minimize the travel lanes and add bike zones along both sides of the roadway.

PROCESS

Per IDOT, the storm sewer draining the viaduct is broken and does not function. Also due to the poor drainage, the concrete pavement is in poor condition under the viaduct. The project proposes to improve drainage along Dixie Highway within the project corridor and specifically within the viaduct by replacing the outlet storm sewer to the next downstream functioning outlet. The project is listed to be constructed somewhere on IDOTs 2025 to 2029 program schedule. The project has a price tag of $2M dollars that will be fully funded by IDOT.

The Illinois Department of Transportation recently completed a Phase I study for Dixie Highway from Harwood Avenue to Spruce Road. The general scope of work consists of improvements to drain the viaduct under the CN/Metra railroad. The report also includes restriping Dixie Highway to create a three-lane cross section that includes accommodations for on-street bicycles. IDOT is requesting the Village's support for the proposed road diet along Dixie Highway from Park Avenue to south of 175th Street.

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The Illinois Department of Transportation is seeking a letter of support from the Village before moving forward with Phase I revision documentation. They also understand there may be additional questions or a request for additional information which can be addressed in the final Phase I document.

The letter of support would include the following:
As the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) begins Phase II of Dixie Highway from Harwood Avenue to Spruce Road (P-91-241-17), the Village of Homewood supports restriping Dixie Highway from Park Avenue, to just south of 175th Street to create a three-lane cross-section that includes accommodations for on-street bicycles. These accommodations align with the marked and signed bike routes established in Homewood. We appreciate IDOT presenting this potential revision in the Phase I report on August 31, 2023, and welcome the opportunity to further discuss its implementation.

OUTCOME
Providing a letter of support to IDOT would enable the process of restriping Dixie Highway to move forward and would enable bicyclists to safely navigate the section of Dixie Highway from Park Avenue to south of 175th Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW
Not Required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION
Authorize the Village President to execute a letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation in support of restriping Dixie Highway from Park Avenue to south of 175th Street in order to create a three-lane cross section that includes accommodations for on-street bicycle lanes.

ATTACHMENT(S)
Concept Drawing