



MEMORANDUM

TO: Keith Giagnorio, Chairperson
Transportation and Safety Committee

FROM: William J. Heniff, AICP, Director of Community Development *WJH*

DATE: December 17, 2010

SUBJECT: Village of Lombard Downtown Revitalization Project Guidebook

Attached for Transportation and Safety Committee information and consideration is the draft *Lombard Downtown Revitalization Project Guidebook*. This document is intended to serve as the plan and guide for future private and public activities within the downtown area. As with past downtown planning documents, staff sought initial comments on the draft report from the Village Board and direction to forward the document to the Village's standing committees and the Plan Commission for further review and recommendations. The Transportation and Safety Committee is now asked to review the draft *Lombard Downtown Revitalization Project Guidebook* as it pertains to the Committee's scope. Comments from the January 3 Transportation and Safety Committee discussion will be incorporated into the document prior to an anticipated February 21, 2010 public hearing before the Plan Commission.

BACKGROUND

In June 2009, the Village Board adopted a framework for downtown planning efforts. This framework included an Action Plan that established specific actions and a timetable to achieve the five goals adopted by the Village Board (relating to economic development, design and image, partnerships, compatible development, and access and circulation). As part of the Action Plan, a market study and property inventory were completed in 2009. The timeline states that all other Action Plan items (including recommended code changes, access and circulation improvement recommendations, comprehensive marketing strategy, parking inventory, and exploration of possible future development sites) should be completed by Fall 2010.

To accomplish these remaining Action Plan items, the Village submitted an application for an RTA Community Planning Grant, which was approved by the Village Board in January 2010. The Village was awarded an 80% matching grant (up to \$100,000 for a \$125,000 study). Since that time, staff has worked closely with the RTA to develop a Request for Proposals that accomplishes all of the stated Action Plan items. After a lengthy review and interview process, the consultant team led by Teska Associates was ultimately chosen.

The Teska Associates team was guided throughout the six-month planning process by the Downtown Plan Working Group, which consisted of Trustee Gron, Trustee Moreau, Plan Commission Chairperson Ryan, Lombard Town Centre, Pace, Metra, the RTA, and staff. Public input on the plan was extensive, including a full day of stakeholder focus groups during which the consultants met one-on-one with 45 Lombardians, an August open house attended by more than 70 residents, business owners, and property owners, a staff meeting with 10 East St. Charles Road property owners, and an October open house attended by 60 interested parties.

The Plan includes development concept plans for seven sites within the downtown core as well as six sites along East St. Charles Road. Other items addressed within the plan include strategies for streetscape enhancements, façade enhancements, visual identity and signage, and transportation. The Plan also includes a preliminary implementation plan that calls out specific actions that can be taken to obtain short-term results. Additional information, including an existing conditions report can be found on the project website: <http://www.teskaassociates.com/lombard>.

2009 DOWNTOWN LOMBARD LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

On October 5, 2009, the Transportation and Safety Committee reviewed a proposed landscape plan for the downtown. There was a consensus among the committee members to install stamped crosswalks at all intersections along St. Charles Road from Grace to Crescent and not install mid-block crosswalks. Some of these stamped crosswalks were installed in 2010 as part of the St. Charles Road LAPP project.

ACTION REQUESTED

Please review the *Lombard Downtown Revitalization Project Guidebook* in preparation for a discussion at the January 3 Transportation & Safety Committee meeting. Specifically, the Transportation & Safety Committee should consider the proposed development concept plans (Chapters 1 & 2), streetscape enhancements (Chapter 3), transportation strategies (Chapter 6), and implementation strategies (Chapter 7) as they pertain to public and private methods of transportation, traffic, and safety matters.