



To: William T. Lichter, Village Manager

From: Wesley B. Anderson, Director of Public Works

Date: May 31, 2006

Subject: President's Committee on Railroad Safety; Pedestrian Underpass

At their May 27, 2006 meeting, the President's Committee on Railroad Safety decided to submit an application for a grant to construct a pedestrian underpass between Villa Park and Lombard at Westmore Avenue.

The State has a grant program for pedestrian grade separation that is managed by the Illinois Commerce Commission. The grant program will fund 50% of the costs associated with construction. In particular for an overpass the grant will fund 50% of the costs associated with construction from "touchdown to touchdown". The grant program is on a five year planning and programming cycle and the next available dollars are for FY 2012.

All grant applications must include an engineering study to determine if the crossing is feasible. The study should also include information on illegal crossings by pedestrians.

An engineer involved in designing pedestrian grade separation projects provided the following order of magnitude estimates for construction of a pedestrian grade separation crossing (present costs):

Underpass	\$2 million
Overpass meeting American with Disability Act (ADA) standards	\$2 million.
Overpass without ADA access	\$1.6 million

Underpasses require careful design to ensure sight lines are maintained and the area is well lit to ensure the area is safe for pedestrians and to provide the perception that it is safe. According to the Operation Lifesaver representative present at the meeting, Western Springs has a good example of an underpass.

The two Villages will have to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to proceed further. Lombard Public Works is obtaining estimates from engineering firms for the study as well as preparing a draft IGA.