



MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Breen, Chairperson
Economic and Community Development Committee

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

DATE: July 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Union Pacific/Metra Pedestrian Tunnel

Background

Village staff has been working with the Union Pacific (UP) and Metra on the proposed pedestrian tunnel for downtown Lombard. The tunnel will be located at the terminus of Park Avenue and Michael McGuire Drive and will extend under the railroad tracks to Parkside Drive. As part of the project, UP and Metra will be installing new ADA compliant ramps and stairs to the platform and tunnel, as well as improving the amenities offered to commuters. Total project costs from Metra and the UP are estimated at \$5.5 million. It is anticipated that the project will commence during the 2012 construction season.

UP and Metra representatives presented the attached material to the Village Board at the April 7, 2011 meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Board with an overview of the project, as well as seek input on several potential upgrades that would be done at the Village's cost. Upon review of the plans, the Village Board directed Metra and UP to proceed with the plans to incorporate the upgraded tunnel and to include the antique copper roofing. The additional cost for these upgraded improvements, as well as adding additional security cameras, is estimated at \$120,000 beyond the initial project scope and will be funded by the Village through the use of TIF dollars. Any additional charges associated with upgrades would be the responsibility of the Village.

The Village Board requested that this item be sent to the Plan Commission and Economic & Community Development Committee (ECDC) for their review and comments. The Plan Commission reviewed the plans at their April 18, 2011 meeting. The Plan Commission was supportive of the proposed pedestrian tunnel as well as the proposed upgrades. The Plan Commission offered the following additional comments:

- Mirrors should also be considered at blind turns.
- Additional signage should be provided clearly showing the location to the tunnel.
- Some commissioners encouraged the use of brick pavers rather than stamped concrete at pedestrian crossings.

- A few commissioners commented that the “fluting” on the concrete panels has a dated look. Some suggested that brick veneer should be considered.
- Commissioners suggested that the project should offer some environmentally friendly enhancements such as using recycled products.

Subsequent to the Village Board and Plan Commission meetings, the UP/Metra held a public open house at the train station on May 10, 2011. The open house was attended by Metra & UP officials, Village staff, Lombard Town Centre, commuters and other interested parties.

Action Requested

At the request of the Village Board, this item is being sent to the Economic & Community Development Committee (ECDC) for their review and comments. It is important to note that the proposed improvements are within the UP right-of-way. Therefore, the plans provided are for informational purposes as they have the authority to proceed with most of the improvements without the need for Village approval. Comments from the ECDC will be shared with the Village Board and transmitted to Metra and the UP accordingly.