



AGENDA ITEM # 13B

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Village Board Meeting

March 22, 2021

Item Title: Pedestrian Safety at Irving Park Road and Pinecroft Drive

Staff Contact: Kristin Mehl, Asst. Director of Public Works/Village Engineer

VILLAGE BOARD ACTION

Provide staff further direction on the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) at the intersection of Irving Park Road and Pinecroft Drive.

Executive Summary:

Over the past several years, the Village has received many citizen inquiries about pedestrian safety at the intersection of Irving Park Road and Pinecroft Drive. The existing intersection has pedestrian crossing warning signs and painted crosswalks, however, there is not a traffic signal or any other traffic control devices to facilitate pedestrian crossings.

Irving Park Road is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Village staff has contacted IDOT on several occasions during the past few years requesting a review of the intersection. In 2018, IDOT reviewed the intersection to determine if a change in traffic control was warranted and determined it did not meet any of the applicable warrants for installation of a traffic signal due to low traffic volumes on Pinecroft Drive. In March of 2019, IDOT implemented a new policy for evaluating pedestrian crossings at uncontrolled locations which allows local jurisdictions like the Village of Roselle to submit a highway permit application through IDOT's Bureau of Traffic Permits Section to install supplemental safety measures at uncontrolled intersections such as Irving Park Road and Pinecroft Drive.

One such safety measure is the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's). If approved, the local jurisdiction is responsible for paying for all costs to design, purchase, install and maintain the RRFB's. The RRFB's provide higher visibility to motorists approaching pedestrian crosswalks, make use of solar energy for powering flashing beacons, and use a push button for activation by pedestrians. Village staff has reviewed IDOT's permit application process and based on the agency's summary of recommendations for pedestrian crossings at uncontrolled locations, the recommended treatment at the Irving Park Road and Pinecroft Drive intersection would be the installation of RRFB's.

Based on the previous direction of the Committee of the Whole in February of 2020, staff submitted a permit application to IDOT for the installation of RRFB's at this intersection as well as sidewalk and crosswalk modifications necessary to facilitate the installation.

IDOT provided staff with feedback on the permit application and expressed significant concerns about the safety of this intersection with the use of RRFB's. Their concern is based on a pedestrian/bicyclist fatality that occurred at an intersection with RRFB's in Mt. Prospect (Central Avenue at Weller Lane).

While the Irving Park Road at Pinecroft Drive location does have a lower average daily traffic and a lower general speed limit, IDOT did cite several ways in which the Mt. Prospect location was a safer location for the installation of RRFB's. The Mt. Prospect location had a 10' refuge pedestrian median that allows pedestrians a safe place to stop if vehicles were not obeying the RRFB's. Additionally, the Mt. Prospect location is in a school zone which requires reduced speeds when children are present as well as the increased expectation that there will be pedestrians in the area. Their location is also located on a flat road with no curves while Irving Park Road has both a hill cresting in this area as well as a curve coming from the west. Photographs of the approaches to the Roselle intersection and the Mt. Prospect intersection are attached as Exhibit A.

If Roselle chooses to move forward with the installation of RRFB's at Irving Park Road and Pinecroft Drive, IDOT would strongly recommend the installation of a 10' median. The median is not a requirement but is a significant safety improvement. Accommodating a 10' median would be difficult based on the current roadway geometry, driveways and utility locations, but it will likely be at a cost of \$100,000 or more. This estimate does not include engineering, easement acquisition or utility relocation.

Additionally, the IDOT policy of RRFB's now requires the Village to not only accept the maintenance responsibility associated with the signals, but also requires the Village to assume all liability for any accidents that occur at the intersection.

The Irving Park Road at Maple Avenue intersection is signalized with pedestrian crossing signals and is located approximately 1,000 feet west of the intersection of Irving Park Road and Pinecroft Drive. This intersection provides pedestrians the safest opportunity to cross Irving Park Road. Due to the proximity of this intersection as well as the increased liability to the Village of installing the RRFB's, staff recommends not moving forward with the RRFB project at Irving Park Road and Pinecroft. Staff would recommend the installation of advanced pedestrian warning signage at this intersection as well as signage for pedestrians to direct them to the signalized intersection at Maple Avenue to cross.

Implications:

Is this item budgeted? No, this item is not included in the FY 2021 budget.

Any other implications to be considered? No

Attachments:

Intersection Photos

Roselle – Irving Park Road at Pinecroft Drive



Looking east on Irving Park Road toward the intersection with Pinecroft Drive



Looking west on Irving Park Road toward the intersection with Pinecroft Drive

Mount Prospect – Central Avenue at Weller Lane



Looking west on Central Avenue toward the intersection with Weller Lane



Looking east on Central Avenue toward the intersection with Weller Lane