

**Skokie Valley Path Bridge  
over Lake Cook Road**  
Phase I Engineering Study



**Public Hearing Open House  
Meeting Summary**

The public hearing for the Skokie Valley Path Bridge over Lake Cook Road Phase I Study was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Highland Park Police Department at 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the proposed improvements, provide status of the project, show tentative construction schedule, and gather public input.

The meeting was conducted in an open house format with exhibits on display for review. Attendees had the opportunity to speak with study team representatives and provide written comments. A court recorder was also available to record verbal comments. The meeting was attended by 78 people. Twelve written comments were received at the meeting and six comments were received after the meeting during the official comment period ending December 13, 2016. Nineteen recorded comments were received at the meeting.

The following public officials were in attendance:

- Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT)
  - Matt Emde
  - Emily Karry
- Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOTH)
  - Tara Orbon
- City of Highland Park
  - Ramesh Kanapareddy
- Village of Northbrook
  - Jim Baxa

The majority of public comments received addressed the following topics:

- Trail connection to surrounding facilities
- Trail amenities
- Trail maintenance

A list of common questions received during or after the meeting are listed below, with responses following.

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**1. Will this project connect the Skokie Valley Bike Path to the Chicago Botanic Garden? Will the trail connect to the sidewalk on the south side of Lake Cook Road?**

The purpose of this project is construct a new bridge over Lake Cook Road. Constructing a new bike path along Lake Cook Road from the Skokie Valley Bike Path to the Chicago Botanic Garden is outside of the scope of this project. This connection has been identified by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) *Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan 2009 Update* as a future path. The schedule to construct this path is unknown.

The Village of Northbrook is currently preparing preliminary engineering to extend the path from Lake Cook Road to Dundee Road. As part of that project, the Village will investigate the feasibility of connecting the path to the sidewalk along the south side of Lake Cook Road.

**2. Will this project install water fountains, bathrooms, lighting, and benches along this path and the surrounding trails?**

Providing water fountains, bathrooms, lighting, and benches along Skokie Valley Path is not anticipated due to cost and maintenance considerations. Installing amenities for the surrounding trails is beyond the scope of this project. In addition, the surrounding trails may not be under the jurisdiction of LCDOT or CCDOT.

**3. Will the trail be cleared of snow and vegetation?**

As a courtesy, Village of Highland Park has plowed the path when snow accumulation is 4" or greater. While the Skokie Valley Bike Path is owned by Lake County, the removal of vegetation falls to the City of Highland Park in Lake County via an intergovernmental agreement.