



**Village of
Northbrook**

Shermer Road Sidepath

**Phase I Study
Walters Ave to Willow Road**



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Thank you for visiting the project website for the Shermer Road Sidepath Phase I Study.

This project involves the preliminary design and engineering of a sidepath along Shermer Road from Walters Avenue to Willow Road. This will provide a dedicated, separated facility for bicyclists and pedestrians.

This presentation will provide you with project background, describe the project need, and go through the analysis of the preferred alternative thus far. In addition, we will also explain how you can participate in the process by applying for a position on the project's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Project Background



- Village of Northbrook Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (BPP)
 - Establishes a strategy to support walking and bicycling as viable, accessible and inclusive modes of Transportation.
- Shermer Road Sidepath – High Priority in BPP
- Village is conducting a Phase I study so that the project may be eligible to receive Federal funds for construction.

In 2017, the Village of Northbrook initiated the planning process for a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which you will see referred to in some places as the “BPP.” This plan established a strategy to improve walking and bicycling as viable, accessible and inclusive modes of transportation in Northbrook. The plan was accepted by the Village Board in July 2018.

As part of the plan, recommendations were developed for short-range and long-range infrastructure improvements, such as new sidewalks, bike lanes and trails. The plan also included policy recommendations and programming opportunities designed to make walking and bicycling, safer, more convenient, and more enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities. The Plan has been incorporated into other Plans, such as the annual Capital Improvement Plan, and continues to be referenced when the Village undertakes other projects, as well.

Projects within the Plan were prioritized using five categories and ranked on a scale of 1 to 6, with scores of 6 given to projects of the highest priority. These categories include: downtown accessibility, regional connectivity, safe routes to School, Safe Routes to Transit, and Local Comfort and Safety. The recommendation to install a sidepath along Shermer Road was given a score of 6, making it one of the plan’s highest priority projects.

You've seen the term "Phase I study" mentioned a couple of times, and some of you may be wondering, what is that? A Phase I study refers to a process of preparing preliminary engineering plans, and following a process outlined by the Federal Highway Administration, and overseen by the Illinois Department of Transportation in order for the project to be eligible to receive federal funding for final engineering and construction. By following this specific process, the Village has the opportunity to obtain additional funds, thereby reducing the direct financial impact to the Village budget.

Project Need

- Local Comfort and Safety
- Safe Routes to School
- Safe Routes to Transit
- Downtown Accessibility
- Regional Connectivity



The need for a sidepath along Shermer Road was highly prioritized in the BPP because it met all five criteria used in the BPP. Shermer Road is a primary north-south roadway in the Village of Northbrook. It has a posted speed ranging from 30-40 mph, and accommodates 15,800 vehicles and 325 trucks on an average day.

There is a need for improved walking and bicycling safety in the area. Further separating bicycle and pedestrian traffic from the roadway is in the interest of all users and would significantly increase the comfort of people bicycling, as well as everyone else traveling along Shermer Road. From a school perspective, the sidepath would connect nearby residents with Glenbrook North High School and Maple School, located nearby.

With regard to downtown accessibility, the northern end of this project is located at the intersection of Shermer Road and Walters Avenue. The northern end of the project provides a gateway to the downtown central business district, and the Village of Northbrook Metra station, served by the Metra Milwaukee District North Line to and from Chicago. In terms of transit, the sidepath would connect to the Village of Northbrook Metra Station which sees approximately 1,200 riders each weekday, and Pace Bus Route 422 which makes several stops along Shermer Road in the project limits.

In terms of regional connectivity, the proposed sidepath would connect directly to a recently-constructed sidepath at the southern end of the project on Willow Road. The Village of Glenview recently completed this sidepath that continues farther south all the way to West Lake Avenue. Furthermore, a Shermer Road sidepath would connect to several other existing and planned bicycle facilities. The construction of a sidepath along Shermer Road is viewed as a key corridor for expanding the Village's bicycle network.

Alternatives Analysis

	Trees & Landscaping	Above Ground Utility Conflicts	Drainage/Flooding	Driveway Access Impacts	Right of Way Impacts
West Side	Higher Impact	Higher Impact	No major impacts	Higher Impact	Commercial: High Impact Residential: High Impact
East Side	Lower Impact	Lower Impact	No major impacts	Lower Impact	Commercial: Moderate Impact Residential: Lower Impact

Let's discuss some of the preliminary analysis work that has been done so far. The primary focus of the study team has been to determine whether the sidepath would be best suited on the east or the west side of Shermer Road.

The team looked at how a proposed sidepath would impact the corridor, and assessed these impacts based on whether the sidepath is constructed on the east side of Shermer, or the west side. The five main criteria used for this process are Trees and Landscaping, Above Ground Utility Conflicts (like power lines and light poles), Drainage impacts, Impacts to Driveways, and impacts to the right of way (aka front yards and parkways in front of businesses.)

A summary of the plus and minus for each side of the roadway is provided on the slide.

Recommended Alternative

- East Side
 - Benefits: Connectivity to existing sidepath south of Willow, few impacted residential properties
 - Challenges: utility relocations, commercial driveway entrances
- West Side
 - Benefits: Few commercial entrances impacted, same side as the schools
 - Challenges: utility relocations, residential impacts, intersection conflicts, parking impacts to businesses, removal of mature trees

The results of the initial analysis indicate the east side is the better side for placement of a new sidepath.

As a summary, the Village found that the benefits placing a sidepath on the east side of Shermer were higher, and that placement on this side also resulted in fewer impacts to residential properties. Additionally, placing a sidepath on the east side of Shermer would make connecting to Glenview's trail easier, as it is also located on the east side of Shermer Road south of Willow Road.

When considering a sidepath on the west side, it was found that while there were slightly fewer impacts to commercial properties, there were far more potential impacts to residential properties and a proposed sidepath near the northern end of the project would impact parking in front of some businesses and would require the removal of some mature trees.

As a result of these potential impacts, the east side of Shermer Road was identified as the preferred side for construction of a sidepath.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- Goal: convene a project technical advisory committee that will serve as a coordinating body for the development of proposed improvements and alternatives analysis.
- Two meetings of the TAC
 - 3/17/2021 – 10 am
 - 4/14/2021 – 10 am
- Bring your ideas!
- Online Application – www.northbrook.il.us/shermerpath



As the development of the proposed alternative moves forward, the Village wants to assemble a project technical advisory committee to serve as a coordinating body for the development of proposed improvements. This committee will meet two times during the Phase I study. Tentative dates for these meetings are March 17, 2021 and April 14, 2021 at 10 am. Due to the ongoing pandemic, these meetings will take place in a virtual setting.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating in being on this committee, the Village encourages you to fill out an online application with your name, contact information, and answer a few questions. The Village is specifically interested in connecting with Business owners and residents located directly along the corridor, but welcomes any and all interested individuals to apply. Individuals on the TAC will be expected to bring ideas for solutions along the Shermer Road corridor, they will be asked to actively participate in meetings, and provide comments on the materials.

Feel free to click on the link in this presentation, or visit the Village's project page by going to www.northbrook.il.us/shermerpath to apply. Links are posted here and at the end of this presentation.

Project Schedule - 2021



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The schedule for this project will continue through most of 2021, and key dates are shown here.

This virtual presentation serves as an introduction to the project, was posted to the Village's project website on January 22, 2021 and will remain online as background information throughout the project.

Applications to join the technical advisory committee will remain open until February 15, 2021. Technical advisory committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for March 17 and April 14, 2021.

Throughout the late winter and spring of 2021, the project study team, with the help of the technical advisory committee, will work to refine and further develop the proposed alternative. The Village anticipates having a draft preferred alternative for the general public to review in May of 2021.

The Village anticipates receiving Phase I Engineering Design Approval from IDOT by the end of 2021. Future phases, which include detailed engineering (also known as Phase II), and construction, are currently not funded and no dates have been determined at this time. Completion of the Phase I Study makes the project eligible – but not guaranteed – to

receive federal funding.

Public Information Meeting

- Village to follow IDOT standards to eligible for Federal funding.
- Opportunity to provide feedback and review project documents

- ***Tentative Meeting Date: May 19, 2021***

www.northbrook.il.us/shermerpath



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As stated previously, this project is following the Phase I study process in order to be eligible for Federal funding. The Village will be following IDOT standards for the completion of a Phase I study which will include formal Public Information Meeting to present the proposed design. The tentative date for this public information meeting is May 19, 2021.

If you are unable to participate in the TAC, you can still give feedback and review project documents at the Public Meeting.

Next Steps

Thank you!

- Village contact :

Aram Beladi, Project Manager
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- Consider joining the TAC.
- Check the project website for regular updates.
www.northbrook.il.us/shermerpath



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We appreciate you taking the time to watch this informational video today. For comments and questions please contact Aram Beladi, Project Manager with the Village of Northbrook. Please consider joining the TAC, visit the project website for an online application form. We also encourage you to continue to check the project website for regular updates. The website address is www.northbrook.il.us/shermerpath.