

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JULY 24, 2007 AGENDA

| SUBJECT: | TYPE: | SUBMITTED BY: |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Florence Avenue Sidewalk Plan | Resolution Ordinance ✓ Motion Discussion Only | Robin A. Weaver Interim Public Works Director |

SYNOPSIS

A motion is requested to direct staff to begin installation of the Florence Avenue Sidewalk Plan on the west side of Florence Avenue, per contract specifications. By denying the motion, Council would direct staff to prepare a change order to install the sidewalk on the east side of Florence Avenue.

While staff understands the differing opinions of area residents regarding the best location for the sidewalk, staff has not changed its recommendation following meetings with neighborhood residents regarding this issue.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Five Year Plan and Goals for 2006-2011 identified *Top Quality Infrastructure and Facilities*. A supporting objective of this goal is *Improved Neighborhood Infrastructure Curbs, Gutters, Streets, and Sidewalks*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The sidewalk project contract has already been awarded by the Village Council for sidewalk installation on the west side of Florence. A change order to install the sidewalk on the east side of Florence would cost an additional \$4,329 and the cost of a guard rail.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the August 7, 2007 active agenda.

BACKGROUND

The Florence Avenue Sidewalk Plan was approved by the Village Council early in the year as part of the Sidewalk Matrix. The sidewalk segment is from Maple Avenue to Chicago Avenue. It is one of nine (9) sidewalk projects scheduled this year. A neighborhood meeting was held in March and the design was completed in April with sidewalk to be installed on the west side of the Florence Avenue. Council awarded the contract in June 2007. At the time of the award the Council instructed staff to mark up the sidewalk configuration on both sides of Florence Avenue.

Some residents on each side of Florence would prefer that the sidewalk be located on the east side of the street. Past practice, Council policy, physical considerations and financial prudence all point to having the sidewalk installed on the west side of Florence from Maple to Chicago Avenue.

Staff has taken into consideration the comments of residents who would prefer to have the sidewalk installed on the east side but believe that the current location along the west side is the most appropriate, for the following reasons:

- Better connectivity to Lester School and Hummer Park, with fewer potential pedestrian-vehicle conflicts

- Less costly by approximately \$8,800
- Requires the removal of only large trees (15" diameter or larger), as opposed to fix which would have to be removed to accommodate a sidewalk on the east side.

After meeting with residents multiple times between March and April, staff continues to recommend installing the sidewalk on the west side, per contract specifications.