

Staff Responses to Council Questions

June 9, 2015

8. First Reading

A-B. Clyde Country Estates Roadway Reconstruction and Drainage Improvements

Please provide a history of the public engagement process used in this project.

Public engagement on this project consisted of:

- Three neighborhood meetings (8/13/14, 11/19/14, and 4/27/15)
- Two Village Council meetings at which the project was discussed under the Manager's Report (1/6/15 and 4/14/15)
- Numerous Informal Conversations between residents and staff on site and in the Public Works offices

Where possible, the proposed improvements have been modified to take into consideration the input received from residents. Some comments will be addressed as the project progresses by making field adjustments during construction.

Neighborhood Meeting #1 - The first neighborhood meeting for this project was held August 13, 2014 and was an opportunity for the residents and design team to meet each other. The meeting was attended by 32 residents. Staff made a presentation describing the scope and schedule of the project, planned design schedule, and ways to provide input from homeowners. Paper copies of the existing conditions drawings were laid out for residents to mark-up with comments or questions. Due to an administrative error, seven residences within the project limits did not receive notification of this meeting. After the error was discovered, staff followed up with each of those seven residences either by phone and/or personal visits. Additionally, 14 residents provided written input to staff in the form of the comments sheets. Staff has since followed up with residents requesting additional information or separate one-on-one meetings. Subsequent to the meeting, staff met individually in the field with several residents to further review the existing conditions and answer questions.

Neighborhood Meeting #2 - A second neighborhood meeting was held November 19, 2014 after the improvement plans had been prepared up to a 90% level. This meeting was attended by 30 residents. Staff presented the proposed improvements plans and provided an opportunity for questions and one-on-one time to review the proposed plans and receive additional feedback from residents. Printed copies of the 90% design plans were available at the meeting for residents to comment on.

Village Council Meeting Discussion #1 - On January 6, 2015, staff presented information about the Clyde Estates project under the Manager's Report. Several residents were in attendance and participated in the discussion. Minutes of the meeting can be found by clicking here: <http://www.downers.us/minutes/2015/2015/01/06/january-06-2015>

Village Council Meeting Discussion #2 - On April 14, 2015, staff presented information about the Clyde Estates project under the Manager's Report. At this meeting, the Village Council removed the sidewalks from the scope of the project. Several residents were in attendance and participated in the discussion. Minutes of the meeting can be found by clicking here: <http://www.downers.us/minutes/2015/2015/04/14/april-14-2015>

Resulting Changes to the Plans - As a result of comments received during the first two neighborhood meetings, comments received at Council meetings, as well as comments received from staff from residents, significant changes were made to the plans that included:

- Elimination of the public sidewalks,
- Elimination of the traffic circle,
- Revision of the grading at the intersection of Washington/Webster/60th Place to save existing trees and lessen changes to grading, and
- Raise ditch profiles and add storm sewers to reduce the slope and depth of ditches.

These changes were made to the plans prior to the scheduling of the third neighborhood meeting.

Neighborhood Meeting #3 - A third neighborhood meeting was held April 27, 2015. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an opportunity to review the plans prior to advertising for bids, to ask questions, provide comments, and request field adjustments. The meeting was attended by 31 residents and the attached spreadsheet summarizes the input that was received at the meeting. The majority of the requests for changes involve attention to address-specific construction details including trees, driveways, culverts and ditches. These requests will be addressed as much as possible during construction with each residents. There were some requests related to future stop signs and traffic calming which will be reviewed following the completion of the project.

Were any changes to the plans made based on the most recent neighborhood meeting?

While the plans presented at the most recent neighborhood meeting reflected the Council direction previously provided and have not changed significantly after the neighborhood meeting, the following minor revisions to the scope of the project were made based on resident input:

- A pedestrian path will be added to connect 60th Place and Washington Street just north of the stormwater area. This will be coordinated with the adjacent resident.
- The bio-swales will be adjusted in the field based on some additional resident input received at the meeting. The contract includes enough to do all of the bio-swales originally requested, but some of the residents have subsequently changed their minds and would prefer turf restoration.

Staff will continue to make changes in the field wherever possible to attempt to save more trees.

Can the Council make further changes to the plans?

Yes, the Council may make additional changes to the plans. Changes to the plan may result in the following:

- Changes to the construction plan (further design work may have to be completed)
- Amendment to the engineering design contract with CBBEL
- Amendments to the construction contract including scope and price using change orders or re-bidding the project based on the revised plans.
- Delay in the construction of the project

Have we addressed the resident concerns presented at last week's Council meeting? What actions were taken, any changes made?

The comments presented at last week's Council meeting included requests for the following:

- Construction of public sidewalks on specific streets
- Omit the realignment of the intersection of Clyde/Washington/60th
- Additional information about the proposed water quality features
- Review of pavement design

Because the above comments were provided after the final bids were received and because the Village Council did not direct changes to the plans, no changes to the plans were made.

Additional information about the water quality feature and pavement design is provided below.

Water Quality - The proposed water quality features are a minor element of the design and are included to help remove elements such as dirt, oils and salts from the pavement before runoff reaches the downstream creeks and rivers.

Pavement Design - The proposed pavement design includes a recycling process similar to what was successfully completed in Downers Grove Estates in 2014. This process significantly reduces the amount of material that will need to be trucked off and onto the project site, as well as reduces the time that residents are inconvenienced with construction.

Online Comments

rRemarks are attached.

Staff Responses to Public Comments on Clyde Estates Project			
Type of Inquiry/Request	Response Type	Comment	Staff Response/Follow-Up
Comment	Noted	Are very disappointed that sidewalks were removed from the plan. They feel that pedestrian safety is a big issue, and that traffic in Clyde Estates warrants the construction of sidewalks. If not on every street, they would at least like to see sidewalks installed on the main streets, like Washington and Clyde. If no sidewalks are installed, they would like to see additional traffic calming measures.	Staff explained to them that the project that will be constructed this year does not preclude the Village from adding sidewalks at a later time. Staff also showed them the plan that includes some traffic calming in the reconfiguring of the intersection at Washington/Clyde/60th. They were appreciative, but wish the Village would add sidewalks back to the plan.
Question	Answered	They wanted to know what type of material the shoulder would be made of and if there was a concern for snow plowing them.	Staff explained to them that the shoulders are going to be stone shoulders placed on top of the roadway base. The shoulders will be sloped slightly steeper than the roadway to attempt to avoid having the shoulders be blown out during snow operations.
Question	Field follow-up	Asked why Bald Cypress trees in front of her property had to be removed and what she can expect in terms of replacement?	The appropriate staff person will respond with an answer.
Question	Field follow-up	Had concerns about tree removal and ditching as it related to watermain depth.	Staff explained that the Village will attempt to replace all trees removed during the project with the same species near the same existing location that they were removed. Staff also told her that sometimes depending on the locations of new ditching or infrastructure that it is not always possible to get a replacement tree. The Village Forester will be looking at tree replacements in 2016 after the project has been completed. Also, if the ditching affects either the watermain or her water service, the contractor will need to replace either of them to ensure that it is below frost depth.
Question	Answered	She said that she heard Nan say that the depth of the stormwater management area would be 3.5 feet at the Council meeting when this topic was most recently discussed. However, she said that tonight it was stated that the depth would be 12 inches. She is confused about the actual depth of this area.	This was subsequently answered by Staff.

Staff Responses to Public Comments on Clyde Estates Project			
Type of Inquiry/Request	Response Type	Comment	Staff Response/Follow-Up
Question	Answered	How deep is the proposed ditch in front of my house? How many pipes go into the stormwater facility? How deep is the stormwater facility? If my ditch is lower than the storm sewer facility, why won't the water flow into my ditch? How much is a 10 year rainfall?	Looked at the plans with resident and showed her the depth of her ditch; approximately 2' below center of road on the west end of her property, and approximate 2'5" on the east end. There are two ditches and one 12" culvert pipe that flow into the stormwater facility, which will be approximately 1' deep. The stormwater facility flows to the west, along the north side of Clyde Drive, but the ditch in front of her house flows east. They are not connected. Informed her that there is not just one 10 year rainfall amount, but that staff would look at the storm report and get back to her with the storm data that the consultant used in this design.
Question	Answered	Concerned about two trees within ROW proposed to be removed. One is a deciduous tree and one is evergreen. Seemed most concerned about evergreen as he thought it was on private property.	Based on drawings, it looked like both trees were in parkway. Additional staff supplemented the conversation.
Question	Field follow-up	Expressed concern about two trees currently called out for removal; wants Village to save trees	Staff explained that the tree removal depends on both storm sewer installation and grading for ditch. Staff may be able to slightly revise the location of the storm sewer and depth of the ditch in the vicinity of the trees in question, which may save them. The final decision will be made in the field during construction. Staff attempts to avoid tree removal wherever possible.
Question	Answered	Wanted to know if new ditch profile would be higher or lower than existing conditions.	Staff used the plans to explain that the new ditch will be roughly one foot deeper than existing at his driveway apron. Staff added that the new ditch and storm sewer system should be able to receive his permitted back and side yard drainage improvements. Resident said he is pleased with the public drainage improvements.
Question	Answered	Wanted to know how deep the ditch would be in front of her home.	Staff reviewed the plans with her and showed her that there would be a new storm sewer going in front of her home. This will keep the ditch very subtle, and there will be a storm inlet about mid-way between her driveway and her neighbor's driveway. The parkway will be sloped to drain to that inlet.
Question	Field follow-up	Noted flooding occurred across the street and it sometimes stands there. Was wondering why that was bad. He also has a brick paver driveway and approach and asked about us maintaining the brick paver approach. His neighbor has a similar driveway approach.	Staff answered his question regarding why standing water next to a road was not ideal, and talked to him about the paver driveway approach.

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Request	Field follow-up	Does not want bio-swale in front of house. Mentioned flooding on 61st St east of Washington. Requested the Village Forester look at tree in front of 829 Clyde because it appears to be splitting.	Staff informed the resident that a bio-swale will not be installed unless he explicitly requests one, and that the flooding issue on 61st St. will be investigated. In addition, the Village Forester will review the tree in front of 829 Clyde.
Question	Field follow-up	He and his neighbor both have brick paver drives. How will those be handled?	Staff explained that generally the Village's contractor can remove and replace pavers unless they are an intricate pattern that the landscaper cannot replicate easily. In those cases, the homeowner is typically reimbursed up to the Village's cost to replace the apron with concrete, so that they can have their contractor repair the brick pavers to their liking.
Question	Answered	How deep will the ditch be in front of her house, and will it impact her split-rail fence and landscaping? Also, how long will her culvert be?	Staff reviewed the plans with her, and showed her that the ditch would be less than 2' below the road. Her yard is elevated above the roadway, however, so it will have a 3:1 slope on the back side in order to blend in. Her culvert will be the same length it is now, which is about 45'. It does appear that some of her landscaping and fencing in the right-of-way will be impacted, but staff will follow up with her in the field to show her exactly where the limits of construction will be.
Request	Field follow-up	Talked to T. Topor in past about us doing a concrete approach instead of asphalt. His plan is to convert existing asphalt driveway to concrete, so he'd like a concrete approach. He's willing to pay the difference.	Staff will coordinate with him on this issue.
Question	Answered	Asked about what was occurring in front of her house	Explained the stormwater piping; pulled up a picture of a catch basin and explained where the water was going through the stormsewers
Question	Answered	Asked about ditching and her driveway	Explained the anticipated ditch profile based on the color coded maps
Question	Answered	Wanted to know how deep the ditch would be in front of her home and if it would impact her landscaping. She asked about the structure in the driveway apron of 911 59th Place, and the structure in the parkway south of her home as well.	Staff reviewed the plans with her, and explained that it does appear some landscaping in the right-of-way may be impacted, but not her trees. Staff will follow up with her in the field to show her where the limits of construction will be. As for the structure in the driveway apron of 911 59th Pl, staff explained that it is a sanitary manhole, and will remain as it is today. The same is true of the manhole in the parkway along Webster Pl south of her lot.
Request	Field follow-up	Would like to see if some of the trees to be removed could be transplanted ahead of construction	Told her that staff will consult with the Village Forester about it.

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Request	Field follow-up	Expressed concern about a large diameter evergreen tree in her parkway and how the proposed ditching would affect it.	It is difficult to tell from the plans whether or not the tree would be affected by the edge of of the new ditch. Informed her that there are specifications and a budgeted line item in the contract for tree root pruning. Root pruning will more than likely need to take place on this property due to the proximity of the proposed ditch section.
Request	Field follow-up	Asked the following questions: 1. Will the existing culvert pipes be replaced during construction? 2. She is considering expanding her driveway, which may impact the apron - how should this work be coordinated? 3. Will the edge of the street consist of gravel or concrete material? 4. Will the bioswales have concrete framing around them?	Questions 3 & 4 were answered by staff. If questions 1 & 2 were not responded to, she requested a call back
Question	Answered	What type of material will the shoulders be? Will the bioswales have concrete framing around them?	Staff explained how the shoulders will be stone on top of the roadway base, and that the bioswales will not have any concrete framing around them.
Comment	Noted	Worried about street realignment not being effective at slowing down traffic and also adding traffic to Clyde Ave that currently is not an issue.	Informed him that Staff would need to look into other traffic calming measures should the proposed street alignment prove ineffective.
Comment	Noted	There is a high spot in Main Street between Clyde and 60th Place. Creates a blind spot.	Staff informed him that Main Street is under the County's jurisdiction. However, if the County plans to do a reconstruction project at this location on Main Street in the near future the Village will let them know about the concern to see if they can help alleviate the issue.
Question	Answered	Asked about Village reflectors around the curve in front of their home.	Referred him to additional staff members.
Request	Field follow-up	He said that he had 4' tall poles with reflectors a couple years back to help better delineate the edge of the roadway. Will these ever get replaced?	It did not appear that new reflector poles would be installed as part of this project according to the plans, however, the resident does live along a curved road and it may be worthwhile to take a look at potentially installing some new poles once the project is completed.
Question	Answered	Would like to know the difference between a bioswale and the planting of prairie grasses	Referred him to additional staff members.

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Type of Inquiry/Request	Response Type	Comment	Staff Response/Follow-Up
Question	Answered	Wanted to know if stops signs would be located at all new intersection configurations. He also had a concern about the two trees within the proposed stormwater management area surviving. He wanted to know if the residents get to choose their own bioswale plantings.	Staff indicated on the plans where all stop signs would be located on the project, but he still had some concerns. Staff also explained to him that we will not be removing the two existing trees within the proposed stormwater management area and that grading operations would only take place around the trees outside the extents of their root systems. Staff informed him that there is a list of plantings for bioswales in the special provisions section of the contract documents. The planting types will be coordinated between the Village, the subcontractor who does the planting and the resident to get them the best product based on site conditions.
Request	Field follow-up	Wants additional stop signs to be placed at Clyde Ave and 60th PI and at Clyde Ave and Washington St to further slow down traffic. He had a concern about the two trees within the proposed stormwater management area surviving. He wanted to know if the residents get to choose their own bioswale plantings.	Staff reviewed the currently proposed stop sign locations with him, and confirmed that stop signs at the requested locations are not currently called out in the plans. In the future, staff would need to look into installation of additional stop signs and/or other traffic calming measures should the proposed street alignment prove ineffective. Staff informed him that the stormwater management area will be constructed in such a way as to not disturb the two existing trees; if the trees turn unhealthy post construction, the Village Forester will assess the situation. Additional staff members further addressed resident selection of the plants for the bio-swales.
Request	Field follow-up	Wanted to know why the storm inlet was being placed east of his driveway. He has never seen any water standing there. Doesn't want the inlet or storm sewer installed, as it will cross his driveway. He doesn't want his driveway to be sawcut because the concrete color will never match.	Staff informed him that likely the inlet was required because this area doesn't drain anywhere. It is probably soaking into the ground in its current condition, which is not good for the pavement base. Staff will further review it, though, to see if there are any other options. He knows he will get a brand new concrete apron, but he is unhappy because the color will not match. He doesn't have a fancy concrete driveway, just plain concrete, but still he doesn't want it removed.
Request	Field follow-up	Was wondering about drain pipe running within swale area. Was wondering if he could tie a pipe to the drain.	Staff advised that the possibility of him connecting a pipe to the new storm sewer would need to be further analyzed, but he could definitely grade his land toward the front if that was his desire. He spoke with additional staff members as well.

Staff Responses to Public Comments on Clyde Estates Project			
Type of Inquiry/Request	Response Type	Comment	Staff Response/Follow-Up
Request	Field follow-up	Could some of the trees that are to be removed along Washington Street be transplanted now? Could we add a path along the north side of the stormwater facility, so pedestrians could use it rather than walking all the way around. Plus it would provide a nice barrier between the native plants and that residential property.	Staff told him that the Village Forester would be consulted about transplanting the trees prior to construction starting. As for the path, staff will discuss the possibility with the design consultant and consider adding it to the scope of work.
Request	Field follow-up	Is there a possibility of transplants for trees? Can trees be transplanted onto their private property? He had concerns with root exposure when ditching operations will take place.	Staff will consult with the Village Forester about specific tree transplant concerns, as this has not been coordinated yet. Staff also explained to him that the Village has special provisions/specifications and a budgeted line item in the contract for tree root pruning. Root pruning will more than likely need to take place on this property due to the proximity of the proposed ditch section.
Question	Answered	Asked who removed the traffic circle. Asked how much water the new stormwater management area would hold during a typical rain event.	Staff talked to him and explained the stormwater management area would hold up to 1.0 to 1.5 feet of water. With regard to the traffic circle, that was a management level staff decision.
Request	Field follow-up	Would like Village to save tree currently called out for removal; have Village Forester look into impact to trees on private property from grading ditches; wants to know why we're not removing tree closer to apron; wants sod restoration, not bioswale	Staff informed him that the Village Forester will be consulted on all impacted trees and the work will move forward based on her expertise; however, staff informed Mike at this time, given the size and location of the ditch, it is still likely the tree currently called out for removal will be removed. Informed him that a bio-swale will not be installed adjacent his property unless he explicitly requests one.
Question	Answered	Wanted to know how deep ditch/depression will be in parkway in front of house and generally how the area would look. Wants catch basin rim to be as high as possible.	Staff used the plans to explain how deep the parkway would be and how the area will be shaped to allow water to flow to the new catch basins. Staff also explained the catch basin rims will be placed as high as possible while still maintaining functionality.
Question	Answered	How will brick paver driveways be handled? He has had his culvert pipe recently replaced recently and it is in good condition. Can we keep the old culvert pipe in lieu of installing a new one?	Staff told him that the contractor will remove and set up a location for the bricks to be stored during construction. The contractor will then do all the necessary work across the driveway apron and then restore the driveway back to it's original paver pattern. Staff also indicated that the new culvert will be a few inches lower than his existing culvert will be, so it is very unlikely that his existing culvert will be able to remain as is.

Staff Responses to Public Comments on Clyde Estates Project			
Type of Inquiry/Request	Response Type	Comment	Staff Response/Follow-Up
Question	Answered	Can we keep the old culvert pipe in lieu of installing a new one? Can we keep the large stones in the ditch north of the apron?	Staff told him that, depending on the final elevation of the ditch system in front of his house and the condition of the culvert, there is a slight chance the culvert may remain intact. The stones will probably need to be removed in order to properly grade the ditch.
Comment	Noted	Expressed a desire to see sidewalk installed on the block of Washington that would connect to the existing sidewalk. She said that she observes many people walking along Washington Street from the back of her house	She requested an explanation of why the sidewalk is not being installed.



rRemarks Data for June 9, 2015 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
Public Comments	Comments of a General Nature	Why are there two video cameras taping the Council meetings. Wouldn't one be enough?	Wayne Downers Grove
Public Comments	Comments of a General Nature	Some people say that even though the Village of Downers Grove spent hundreds of hours and offered a \$100,000.00 interest free loan to save the HISTORIC EDWARDS HOUSE, It was not enough. Now the Council has the chance to work hard and save the HISTORIC VILLAGE HALL and HISTORIC POLICE STATION. We do not need another new Fire Station. The bonds for the one at Main and 55th have not been paid off yet.	Wayne Downers Grove