

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council Meeting
6/6/2017

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
New Business – Require Petitioners to use a staff and Village Council pre-approved list of five engineering firms for traffic studies	David Fieldman Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

At the request of Commissioner Waldack, consideration of whether to require petitioners to use a staff and Village Council pre-approved list of five engineering firms for traffic studies has been placed on the New Business Agenda. Pursuant to Village Council policy, this topic shall be a discussion item only to allow for the Council to direct staff to prepare an action for consideration at a later date.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2015-2017 include *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Action at the discretion of the Village Council.

BACKGROUND

Commissioner Waldack requested that the Village Council consider requiring petitioners to use a staff and Village Council pre-approved list of five engineering firms for traffic studies. The proposal is as follows:

PROPOSAL: Petitioners that are required to provide Traffic Studies will be required to choose one of five engineering firms pre-approved by Staff and Council when submitting their documentation.

REASON: After over a decade of sitting on Council and more years of observation, there has not been a single negative traffic study submitted with a petitioner's request. There was one that could be considered "neutral" and many that seem to defy common sense.

Petitioners pay for their studies and can shop around for a "cooperative" firm. While engineers must be licensed, this is no guaranty of an extremely symbiotic relationship. Limiting the choices may improve the chances of more accurate and honest appraisals. Ideally, there would be one, but a selection from a class of five may be beneficial to start.

ADVANTAGES:

- *Use of experienced licensed engineers*

- *Cuts down on “shopping” for favorable results*
- *Staff familiarity with the firms and more trust in what is submitted*
- *Engineering Firms may be less biased in order to maintain their approval status.*
- *The Village can negotiate better prices and terms with a selected group which should cut petitioner costs.*

Staff will have a process including RFPs to ascertain the candidates and a process for approval. Once the list is approved Petitioners can save time and money, Staff time should be reduced as well. Studies could become more standardized and become more science than art.