

**To:** Dr. Charles Johns  
Board of Education

**From:** Dr. Kim Ptak  
Dr. R.J. Gravel

**Date:** Monday, February 28, 2022

**Re:** Village of Northbrook Letter of Support for Invest in Cook Application

**Background**

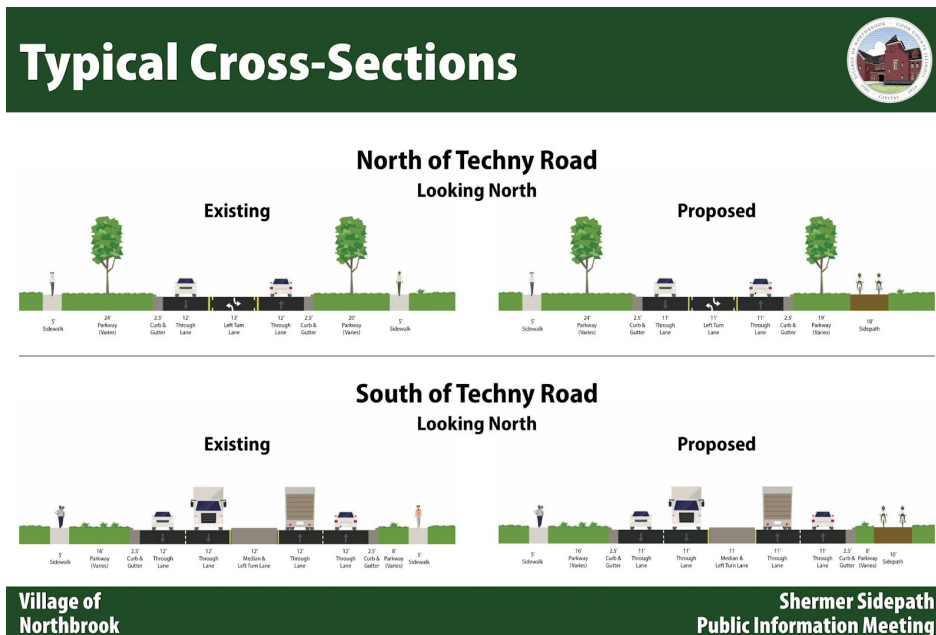
Mr. Jack Bielak, Village of Northbrook Assistant Engineer, reached out requesting a letter of support to include as part of a grant application through “Invest in Cook” which seeks funding for the design and engineering fees to construct a multi-use side path along Sermer Road between Walters Avenue and Willow Road. The anticipated project would involve the construction of a new path on the east side of Shermer Road running south from Walters Avenue to Willow Road where it would connect to the recently completed multi-use path in the Village of Glenview which begins south of Willow Road and extends to West Lake Ave. The goal of this project is to provide dedicated, separated facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, and connect the various residences and businesses to public transportation and existing bicycle facilities. The multi-use path would serve the Central Business District, the local Metra station, Glenbrook North High School, Maple School, several major industrial businesses and residential developments. This project was designated as a high priority in the Village’s 2018 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and is viewed as a key component in expanding the Village’s bicycle network. Images 1.0 and 2.0 illustrate the location and detail of the proposed path; actual design and detail will be determined through the design and engineering process.

This project will have a positive impact on the Northbrook/Glenview community and, in particular, will increase the safety of the growing number of Glenbrook North students who bike and/or walk to school.

Image 1.0 Project Overview - Path Location



Image 2.0 Proposed Cross-Sections



Dear Mr. Wegley / Mr. Kurtz / Ms. Bonner,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Village of Northbrook to request a letter of support from each of your schools for our Invest in Cook application. The Village is requesting Invest in Cook funding for design engineering of bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Shermer Road between Walters Avenue and Willow Road. The proposed improvements include construction of a new multi-use path, pedestrian traffic signal upgrades, a road diet, and upgrades of ADA intersection ramps. The goal of the project is to make this important corridor more bicycle and pedestrian accessible for all users.

This project was assigned the highest priority ranking in the Village's Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (MBPP). The Shermer Road corridor includes a number of significant trip generators including Maple Middle School, Glenbrook North High School, and many industrial/commercial businesses that have large workforces. The path will link all of these destinations to the Village's Central Business District and the Village's METRA station, multiple PACE bus stops as well as a recently completed side path along Shermer from Willow Road to West Lake Avenue in the Village of Glenview. An existing multi-use path on West Lake Avenue will allow a continuous separated bicycle and pedestrian corridor from Downtown Northbrook to The Glen in Glenview, and beyond.

This project will serve as a means to make bicycle travel safer for residents traveling to downtown Northbrook, the local Metra station, schools, and businesses. We believe the path will not only be enjoyed by regional residents but also by the workforces of the various Shermer Road businesses who might currently be able to use METRA to get to Northbrook but are not comfortable biking on street. I am requesting a letter of support to include with our application package by March 4<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**Jack Bielak, P.E.**

**Assistant Village Engineer**

[Village of Northbrook](#)

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