



Tonne Road Improvements

Devon Avenue to Landmeier Road

August 16, 2023 Public Informational Meeting Response Comments

The Village of Elk Grove Village (Village) would like to thank everyone for their participation in the Public Informational Meeting (PIM) held for the proposed improvements of Tonne Road from Devon Avenue to Landmeier Road. The purpose of this project is to address safety concerns along the corridor, fix the deteriorating pavement condition, and provide additional pedestrian and bicycle facilities and access while connecting to other Village non-motorized facilities and destinations. The improvements include reconstruction of Tonne Road, intersection and geometric/roadway improvements, water main replacement, storm water improvements and additional bicycle/pedestrian accommodations.

The Public Informational Meeting was held August 16, 2023, at the Village's Public Works facility from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The purpose of the event was to offer residents, business owners and all other stakeholders the opportunity to review the need for improvement; present the preferred alternative; show suggested additional safety improvements and solicit public input regarding the project. The information presented was preliminary and will continue to evolve throughout the design process.

Approximately 50 people attended the PIM and reviewed preliminary exhibits/drawings and other study documents; and had the opportunity to speak with the design team and Village representatives to have their questions and concerns about the project addressed. The Village received a total of 26 written comments as of August 30, 2023. The public input and comments gathered has helped the project team with insight to refine the design and better move the project toward an improvement that is more responsive to stakeholders' needs.

The comments received touched on many topics and expressed both support and areas of concern. Review of the comments indicated that there were six main topics that were included in the majority of the comments. These six main topics included:

1. Safety
2. Roadway Geometric Modifications
3. Drainage Problems
4. Bike Path/Sidewalk Inclusion
5. Roadway Signage
6. Construction Staging/Access to Homes/Businesses

Since many of the comments had similar concerns, this newsletter has been prepared to respond to those concerns as well as to provide an overview of other topics brought to our attention at the PIM.

1. SAFETY

The most commented upon topic was related to safety along the corridor and expressed concerns for both vehicular and pedestrian safety. Safety concerns included speed of vehicles, wrong way vehicles, number of trucks, number of crashes and lack of pedestrian facilities. One of the main purposes of this project is to address safety concerns along the corridor. Thus, the improvements proposed are anticipated to reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes and improve pedestrian safety throughout the corridor, but specifically at the high-volume crossing of Tonne Road and Elk Grove Boulevard/Touhy Avenue. The Village will continue its speed enforcement efforts along the corridor in an effort to calm traffic speeds through the corridor.

2. ROADWAY GEOMETRIC MODIFICATIONS

The main geometric modifications being considered along Tonne Road include the conversion of the Tonne Road at Touhy Avenue/Elk Grove Boulevard intersection from its existing configuration to a median U-turn design, and the removal of the Clearmont Avenue and/or Laurel Avenue cross median accesses.

The Village has reviewed and studied various alternates to the Tonne Road at Touhy Avenue/Elk Grove Boulevard intersection including the installation of stop signs, traffic signals, roundabout, various turn lane alternates and the median U-turn design presented. Based on traffic analyses and safety considerations the Village selected the median U-turn design as the preferred alternative. Additionally, this proposed design was presented to IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration and it was accepted as a viable solution to address the number and severity of crashes at this location. The median U-turn design has been updated to address the concerns expressed at the PIM. The north median U-turn has been shifted further south to avoid conflicts with the residential driveways along the west side Tonne Road.

The removal of the Clearmont Avenue and Laurel Avenue cross median accesses were being considered as a measure to directly increase safety and reduce wrong way movements. These locations were selected to minimize impacts to those who currently utilize these crossings as minor out of distance travel can accommodate access to all desired locations. However, due to the public response, the existing cross median accesses will be maintained at Clearmont Avenue and Laurel Avenue.

Comments were also received concerning the ability of trucks to navigate the proposed geometric improvements. The proposed designs have been developed to accommodate general truck movements throughout the corridor. However, based on comments received at the PIM, a number of specific areas are being further evaluated to address access concerns with regard to truck movements.

3. DRAINAGE

The concern with a lack of existing adequate drainage facilities was expressed by multiple attendees. It was noted that sections of Tonne Road experience standing water during rainstorms and adjacent properties experience flooding. As part of the planning and coordination process, a drainage analysis is being conducted for the entire corridor and measures will be implemented to address roadway related drainage, storm water runoff, and detention concerns. The improvements will be designed to reduce the chances for future roadway flooding by installing additional drainage structures to capture roadway water, larger storm sewers to convey larger rain events and additional storm water detention.

4. PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Many positive comments were received concerning the proposed multi-use path in the median and sidewalk improvements. The shared-use path is proposed to be located in the median to offset it as far from the roadway as practical to increase user comfort and safety for all levels of bikers or other non-motorized methods of travel while minimizing impacts to adjacent properties. Attendees provided various suggestions for ways to improve the connectivity of bicyclists and pedestrians in the area and we are reviewing crossing locations, and they may be updated as we move forward with the design. The existing sidewalk located along the west side of Tonne Road will remain. A new 6' wide sidewalk will be installed along the east side of Tonne Road.

5. ROADWAY SIGNAGE

Comments received indicated that the signage along Tonne Road was not adequate or consistent and that additional signage was needed. A plan was presented at the PIM that showed proposed signing improvements at the intersections. This signing will provide a consistent application along the corridor and work to improve driver understanding. Based on comments received at the PIM, the design team has evaluated proposed additional signing noted in comments from PIM attendees along the corridor and in particular, the additional signage is to focus on addressing wrong way vehicles leaving the east side businesses.

6. CONSTRUCTION STAGING /ACCESS TO HOMES/BUSINESSES

Two options for construction staging were presented which included roadway closure and building both lanes at the same time, and staged construction (building one lane at a time). Support for the roadway closure option was expressed. This option will first close the southbound lanes to through traffic followed by northbound lanes. During construction, through traffic will be prohibited but local access will be maintained to adjacent properties with only limited short time impacts while construction is completed immediately adjacent to the property. During construction, measures will be implemented to keep property owners informed of the construction schedule and impacts.

NEXT STEPS

Due to limited funding available for this project, the scope of work has been modified since the PIM. The following changes have been made:

- The project will be split into two construction contracts. Tonne Road from south of Elk Grove Boulevard/Touhy Avenue to Landmeier Road will be improved first with construction targeted to begin in the Spring of 2025. The remaining section of Tonne Road, from Devon Avenue to south of Elk Grove Boulevard/Touhy Avenue, will be improved with construction tentatively targeted to begin in the Spring of 2028.
- The existing curb and gutter along the southbound lanes and the inner northbound lane will be maintained.
- The southbound travel lanes will be reconstructed which will maintain the existing two, 12' lanes.
- The northbound travel lanes will be reconstructed and provide two 11' lanes. The narrower lanes will provide additional room to provide a 6' wide sidewalk at the back of curb.
- The existing sidewalk along the west side of Tonne Road will be maintained.

Updated exhibits will be provided on the Village website, see the link below.

The project team will be completing the remaining engineering analyses and will develop a final preferred alternative which will be selected based on satisfying the project's purpose and need (safety and improved pavement condition) while minimizing impacts but will also take into consideration addressing public comments.

We would like to thank everyone for their participation. We encourage you to visit the Village's website at the link below to view the information from the PIM along with future project updates. If you have any additional comments or questions please contact Mr. Ken Jay, Elk Grove Village at 847-734-8800 or kjay@elkgrove.org.

Project Website Link: <https://www.elkgrove.org/government/public-works-department/village-construction-projects/tonne-road-improvements>