

# DES PLAINES RIVER TRAIL PHASE I STUDY



The Trail Advisory Group and the Forest Preserves of Cook County welcome you to this Public Meeting concerning the proposed improvements to DES PLAINES RIVER TRAIL (DPRT) from Touhy Avenue to the Illinois Prairie Path.

## YOUR INPUT MATTERS

The purpose of this meeting is to present existing conditions and the need for trail improvements, proposed trail alternatives and evaluation results, and to seek public input regarding the project and alternatives still being considered. We invite you to view the detailed project exhibits on display and discuss the project with the project team. Members from the Forest Preserve and the engineering consultant (Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.) are in attendance to answer any questions you may have. Your questions and comments are an important part of this Public Meeting. You are encouraged to submit written questions or comments by placing them in the comment box. You may also send your questions or comments to the mailing address or e-mail address shown listed below.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A Phase I Engineering Study is ongoing to evaluate potential future improvements along this portion of the Des Plaines River Trail (DPRT). This project will address existing DRPT deficiencies with respect to safety, flooding, access and community connections.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Although the Existing DRPT ends at North Avenue, the design team is also evaluating a proposed extension south to the Illinois Prairie Path.
- Multiple alternatives were developed and evaluated based on impacts to environmental resources, safety, user experience and cost
- The development and evaluation of the proposed alternatives has been coordinated with the Trail Advisory Group and Forest Preserve.

## ALTERNATIVES

The project corridor has been divided into 10 Design Segments (between major roadway crossings). The design team in coordination with the Trail Advisory Group and Forest Preserves have evaluated alternatives for both:

- Mainline Des Plaines River Trail
- DPRT Trail Crossings

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

All alternatives have been evaluated with respect to meeting the project purpose and need criteria, which includes the following:

- User Experience/Aesthetics
- Tree Impacts
- Wetland Impacts
- Floodplain/Floodway Impacts
- Right-of-Way Impacts
- Safety of Road Crossing
- Safety to Trail User
- Reliability of Trail
- Connectivity
- Cost

## COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Written comments can be submitted during this Open House Meeting using the comment form provided, mailed to the address indicated to the right, or emailed to [mmcghee@cbbel.com](mailto:mmcghee@cbbel.com). Comments must be received by **March 4, 2020** to become part of the official public record.

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## TRAIL ADVISORY GROUP

The Trail Advisory Group (TAG) consists of representatives from municipalities along the Des Plaines River Trail corridor within the project area, and key stakeholders including the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPDCC), Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH). The TAG has met 3 times throughout the Phase I Study to discuss alternatives development and evaluation results and provide input for the design team.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS



- After this Public Meeting, comments will be considered and a preferred alignment will be identified.
- Phase I Engineering Reports will be prepared and submitted to IDOT for approval.
- Upon completion of Phase I, the FPDCC will initiate the Phase II Engineering (preparation of contract plans and land acquisition) which will likely be phased over approximately 4 years.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2022 or early 2023 contingent upon project readiness and funding availability.
- The Phase I Engineering estimated construction cost is approximately \$34 million.

