



MEMORANDUM

To: Ingrid Velkme, Village Manager, Western Springs **Date:** 1/8/2018
From: Kevin Artl, Chief Operating Officer, Illinois Tollway
Re: **BNSF Bridge Project Coordination**

Purpose of Memo

The purpose of this memo is to provide a general summary of Tollway's plans for the replacement of the BNSF Railroad Bridge.

Project Summary

The BNSF Railroad Bridge will need to be reconstructed and lengthened to accommodate the new width of Tollway's roadway. This work is programmed to occur as early as 2019 and conclude in 2022. The Tollway is required by the BNSF Railroad to maintain the 3 existing tracks open to rail service during the entire duration of the bridge replacement. To fulfill this requirement, a temporary "shoo-fly" (a temporary short routing or bypass around the new bridge site) will be constructed south of the existing tracks that will maintain existing rail service without disruption. The existing railroad embankment will be widened to the south and a temporary shoo-fly bridge will be constructed immediately south of the existing BNSF Bridge.

In order to maintain uninterrupted rail service and to minimize construction impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods, the Tollway will need to acquire temporary easement from Western Springs and the Western Springs Park District. In addition to providing space required to safely build the shoo-fly embankment, the temporary easements are needed to provide direct access for construction equipment and materials from the Tollway's mainline rather than via the local street network. Again, the goal is to minimize impacts to the neighborhoods adjacent to the project site. The temporary easements will be needed for the full duration of construction. In addition, a permanent take is needed on the north side of the existing railroad property adjacent to the existing Tollway right-of-way to accommodate a portion of the replacement bridge structure and provide for future maintenance.



Attached are exhibits that show the temporary land needs (shown in blue on the exhibit) and permanent (red) land needs for the bridge replacement project. As you can see, most of the impacts are temporary and the final improvements are primarily contained within the existing railroad rights-of-way.

Concerns Expressed by the Village

What are the impacts to the Village's Well No.4?

We do not anticipate any disruption to this well during construction however, for added precaution, the Tollway will require the contractor to provide measures to protect the well from impacts of construction including vibration monitoring, well monitoring, water sampling, and provisions for temporary power.

What are the impacts within Spring Rock Park?

The tennis courts in Spring Rock Park will remain open during construction. Temporary improvements will be made to protect the safe use of the tennis courts during construction. The Tollway will coordinate the details of these temporary improvements with the Village and the Park District as design phase progresses.

Approximately 100 parking spaces will be closed during construction along Burlington Avenue for as long as 3 years. All of the 100 parking spaces will be restored upon project completion.

As a part of this project, is there a way to incorporate drainage improvements to address flooding issues adjacent to the Public Works Facility?

Yes, this will be explored as a part of the mainline design phase. The Tollway's proposed mainline improvements take into consideration local flooding concerns as noted in a separate memo.

What are other impacts that Village may expect during construction of the BNSF Bridge?

A permanent retaining wall will be constructed on the north side of the railroad embankment. Towards the end of construction, the Contractor will need to use Hillgrove Avenue to access this area for final grading and any landscape coordinated with the Village and BNSF. The Tollway will coordinate closely with the community to ensure access to the theater, recreation center, public works, and other local properties during this period.



Next Steps

The Tollway's next step is to provide formal notice to the Village and Park District that these lands have been identified by the Tollway as a need for this project. The Tollway expects to issue this notice by the end of January. We look forward to continued coordination with you and the Park District as we move forward.