

# Skokie Valley Trial – Old Orchard Road to Voltz Road

## Public Comments - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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A public informational meeting was held on May 29, 2019 at Glenview Village Hall. Public comments were accepted using comment forms at the meeting, and during the comment period, written and email comments were accepted as well. The comment period began on May 29, 2019 and was scheduled to end June 14, 2019 but was extended to July 8, 2019. This document summarizes the frequently asked questions and responses.

**1. I live adjacent to the ComEd/Union Pacific corridor in Glenview. How will this affect the privacy of my property?**

The proposed trail will be on existing property owned by Commonwealth Edison (ComED), which is east of the inactive Union Pacific railroad tracks. No changes are anticipated for the railroad property or the undeveloped private property west of the railroad and south of Avoca Elementary School except where access connections are proposed at Wilmette Avenue and Avoca Elementary School. With multiple properties (totaling approximately 140 feet in width) separating the trail from the Village neighborhoods to the west, impacts to privacy are not anticipated.

**2. I live adjacent to the existing right-of-way in Northfield. How will this project affect the privacy of my property?**

A key goal for the Village of Northfield is the preservation of vegetation including avoiding impacts to trees and wetlands. Screening and separation will be accomplished by the preservation of vegetated area between the path and adjacent properties. The Village is committed to maintaining public involvement through the next steps of the project to make sure that the concerns of these valued stakeholders have been addressed.

**3. The proposed trail will go through an existing greenspace. How with environmental resources such as vegetation be protected?**

The path alignment has been developed to minimize impacts to vegetation and wetlands. Any trees removed will be replaced at a 1:1 replacement ratio, and temporary fence will be used to protect trees close to the work zone from damage during construction. Wetland impacts will be mitigated by establishment of new wetland space in accordance with US Army Corp of Engineers requirements. Additionally, as part of the Phase 1 study, the Illinois Department of Transportation will review the project area to determine if the project will have an adverse effect on threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Areas, or other natural resources, and contaminated soil from the project will be properly tested and disposed of in accordance with Illinois state regulations.

**4. Will construction of the path cause flooding or other drainage problems?**

The path has been designed to maintain existing drainage conditions and will be in accordance with local stormwater ordinances. Existing drainage patterns will be maintained with stormwater directed to existing swales/ditches within the UP/ComED Rights of Way. Additionally, the path alignment was developed to avoid impacts to both wetlands and floodplains where possible. For locations where impacts to wetlands or floodplains cannot be avoided, the impacts will be mitigated by establishment of new wetland space or new locations of floodwater storage, respectively, in accordance with Federal, State, and Local regulations.

**5. Will the path provide adequate safety for cyclist and pedestrians?**

Providing a safe facility for cyclists and pedestrians that is separate of motor vehicles is a key objective for this project. At locations where path users cross streets, crosswalk treatments were selected based on the specific location conditions and in accordance with the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices as well as the latest design guidance from the Illinois Department of Transportation. Major crossings at Lake Avenue and Willow Road will be at signalized intersections with pedestrian signal heads. Pavement markings and signage with flashing beacons are proposed for crossings at Glenview Road and Winnetka Avenue.