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BARRINGTON
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A MESSAGE FROM KAREN DARCH President, Village of Barrington

Good News! The Route 14 Underpass Project Is Slated to Begin This Year

As we begin 2024, I am so pleased to let our community know that after a very lengthy period of preparation and sourcing funding, the Route 14 underpass project is slated to begin this year. For the last several years, our dedicated Village staff has been diligently at work with various federal, state, and local agencies to lay the groundwork for this important project, and now we are finally here.

For those of you who may be new to town, this project will create an underpass under the Canadian National Railway tracks at Route 14, which will provide an unblocked route through Barrington when trains criss-cross our town. This is a critical infrastructure improvement that will lead to increased safety and less traffic congestion in town.

Since 2009, after the Canadian National Railway took over the E&J&E railroad that runs directly through our Village, trains blocking traffic in town have become much more prevalent and disruptive. So for the past fifteen years the Village of Barrington worked with the federal and state governments to secure funding to build the underpass, which will lower the grade of Route 14 by 23 feet under the CN tracks. This will alleviate congestion at that crossing and create a clear path through town for emergency vehicles and to Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital.

While the Village secured the project funding and has been the lead agency for Phase II (detailed design phase), the project is being permitted and approved through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), as it is on a state route.

The federal government, as well as the Canadian National Railway, are also involved with the Village and IDOT in Phases II and III, so there are many moving parts that affect project scheduling. Land acquisition and railroad coordination are well underway, but final certification and permit approvals will need to meet deadlines ahead of the project letting (the date when the contractor bids are due and opened).

As a result, the anticipated project timeline has been updated; here is what you should start to see in 2024:



Information on the project phases, current status of the project, exhibits and a video rendering can be found on the Village website. A project website will be launched early this year with more detailed project information and an opportunity to sign up for project updates.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UNDERPASS PROJECT INCLUDING FAQs

WHAT WILL THE FINISHED UNDERPASS PROJECT INCLUDE?

- Route 14 lowered 23 feet under railroad tracks to create a new traffic bypass
- Over 20,000 vehicular crossings at train tracks eliminated in Barrington per day!
- 4,300 feet of new bicycle/pedestrian pathways and over 400 feet of existing path replacements
- 3,400 feet of improved sidewalks and connectivity
- Rt. 59/Route 14 intersection improvements to include the addition of bicycle/pedestrian crosswalk on the west leg and widening of the crosswalk on the southern leg

