



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

West Branch DuPage River Trail Public Information Meeting Summary and Response

On March 6, 2019, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and Lochner held an open house public information meeting to provide information and gather public input on the proposed West Branch DuPage River Trail between Blackwell and West DuPage Woods forest preserves.

The meeting was advertised in public notices in the *Daily Herald*, posted on the Forest Preserve District's website, and advertised through social media on the District's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The District also sent letters and a map of the meeting location to properties within 1,000 feet of the project site.

At the meeting, attendees signed in and received comment forms. After a presentation of the proposed project, they had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the project in an open forum.

The Forest Preserve District received five comment forms at the meeting and one form after the meeting via email. It received two responses via email without the form and two over the telephone.

The following is a list of the written and verbal questions and comments and the Forest Preserve District's responses for each. Comments and questions are in bold; responses, in italics.

1. How will you keep people from throwing things off the bridge onto the roadways or surrounding property?

IDOT will require a minimum 6-foot-high fence on the bridge over Roosevelt Road.

2. Can you do a follow-up meeting to go over the final design? A night meeting is preferred.

We do not anticipate holding another public meeting to specifically discuss this project. However, as the project moves forward, we will need further board action to approve contracts. All Forest Preserve District planning sessions and commission meetings are open to the public and offer opportunities for public comment.

3. What is the entire length of the bridge?

The proposed lengths of each section of the bridge are shown on the General Plan and Elevation sheet from the Preliminary Bridge Design and Hydraulic Report, which was included in displays at the meeting. The proposed overall length of all sections of the bridge is 635 feet 6 inches.

4. What is the material of the bridge deck?

A concrete surface is proposed for the bridge deck.

5. Members of Trail Riders of DuPage (TROD) requested to make the bridge deck more horse friendly. A more highly textured concrete may be an acceptable option.

The Forest Preserve District will investigate the feasibility of surface treatments for the concrete bridge deck.

6. How will rain drain off of the bridge?

A requirement of the bridge design is to prevent direct drainage onto Roosevelt Road.

7. What will the railings be like? Concerns about safety for children, etc.

The proposed railings are shown on the elevation and model drawings. Note that the model does not show the steel mesh on the railing panel. The panels shown represent the IDOT Bicycle Railing Standard.

- 8. Concerns were raised about sight lines on north side of bridge. Consider revising curve radius for better line of sight.**
The curve radii and bridge alignment were designed to accommodate the available space and pier design. The smallest radius proposed for the design is 100 feet. The Forest Preserve District may consider signs to promote reduced speeds over the bridge and encourage trail etiquette.
- 9. What is the width of the bridge? Will the pavement be striped?**
The proposed width of the bridge is 12 feet between railings. The Forest Preserve District may consider a center stripe for the bridge surface.
- 10. It appears that this trail segment would improve safety for individuals who currently have to walk or bike on IL 59 and Gary's Mill Road.**
Thank you for your comment.
- 11. Consider the designs of the bridges over I-355, Kirk and Ferry Roads for ideas to prevent people from throwing debris off the bridge.**
IDOT will require a minimum 6-foot-high fence on the bridge to discourage littering.
- 12. Can you improve the water passage under the Roosevelt Road Bridge? Consider putting a channel in on the right side going downstream for canoers/kayakers. Don't put any more rocks under the bridge.**
These improvements are beyond the scope of this project. The plans will not affect the river channel; they will not increase the channel's depth or add rocks or debris to the channel.
- 13. Will the Gary's Mill bridge be replaced anytime soon?**
Gary's Mill Road and the bridge over the river are in IDOT's jurisdiction. The IDOT Highway Improvement Program lists resurfacing and ADA improvements for Gary's Mill Road between Route 59 and Roosevelt Road for 2020 –2024. Nothing is listed related to the bridge.
- 14. During construction, make sure the contractors clean up any construction debris.**
Cleanup will be a requirement of the construction contract.
- 15. What happens if the Roosevelt Road bridge needs to be replaced?**
If future improvements to the Roosevelt Road bridge cannot be accommodated with the pedestrian bridge in place, the truss bridge portion of the structure over Roosevelt Road may be removed from the abutments and staged during Roosevelt Road improvements.
- 16. Why can't you use two "L" shaped bridges instead of an "S" curve bridge?**
Curves in the bridge design accommodate the location of the bridge and the diagonal crossing over Roosevelt Road. The proposed curve radii meet the minimum 100-foot-radius design recommendations for bicycle paths.
- 17. How long will the bridge last?**
The superstructure of the bridge is designed for a 75-year lifespan. On average, the bridge deck will require maintenance every 20 years to maintain the concrete surface.

- 18. When was the decision made on the trail route? Why isn't it going on the property on the east side of the river that was acquired by the forest preserve in the past?**
Several options for trail alignment were considered in the Phase I process. The proposed alignment was selected to use existing trail easements and minimize impacts to the floodplain and floodway to the greatest extent possible.
- 19. Will the trail be patrolled?**
Trails maintained by the Forest Preserve District are patrolled by its Law Enforcement police officers, Site Operations rangers, and Trail Watch volunteers.
- 20. The slurry seal that the forest preserve put on some parking lots for equestrians was appreciated. Consider this approach for bridge surface.**
The Forest Preserve District will investigate the feasibility of surface treatments for the concrete bridge deck.
- 21. Add benches or mounting blocks on either end of the bridge so equestrians can dismount and lead the horses on foot.**
The Forest Preserve District will consider adding benches along the trail as design development moves forward.
- 22. Add signage showing that horses have the right of way.**
Thank you for your comment.
- 23. Do not add lights under the bridge.**
Lighting is not proposed for the underside of the bridge.
- 24. There are concerns that people will cause "havoc" under the bridge. Consider cameras, extra patrols.**
Trails maintained by the Forest Preserve District are patrolled by its Law Enforcement police officers, Site Operations rangers, and Trail Watch volunteers.
- 25. Will there be a detour if the bridge has to be closed?**
In the past the Forest Preserve District has implemented temporary detours for long-term closures of regional trails. It will consider detours for long-term closures of the bridge if it can identify safe alternatives for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- 26. Can there be alerts on the website or emails, texts, etc. to let people know when trail segments are closed?**
We will pass along the suggestion to the Forest Preserve District's Communication and Marketing department.
- 27. It was hard to find information about the meeting on the website.**
Meeting information was posted on the project page as well as the event calendar. We will pass the comment along to the Forest Preserve District's Communications and Marketing department.
- 28. Lights are needed on the West Branch DuPage River Trail under the I-88 bridge.**
The I-88 underpass is not within the scope of this project; however, the Forest Preserve District is now aware of this concern.
- 29. Looks like a great plan! No north-south bike routes that are safe in that area – would be a great addition.**
Thank you for your comment.

- 30. I'd like to see more DuPage River walking areas and picnic areas – better access to the River or more access other than the Naperville River Walk & McDowell – one in Winfield would be really nice.**

Thank you for your comment. This is beyond the scope of this project; however, the Forest Preserve District is now aware of your concern.

- 31. Great job! Looking forward to see its completion. Please keep in mind surface. Horses prefer a little traction.**

The Forest Preserve District will investigate the feasibility of surface treatments for the concrete bridge deck.

- 32. Please consider straightening the curve on the northern portion of approach closest to Roosevelt Road. That section will see bikes accelerating going north (downhill) and that curve may see collisions.**

Curves in the bridge design accommodate the location of the bridge and the diagonal crossing over Roosevelt Road. The proposed curve radii meet the minimum 100-foot-radius design recommendations for bicycle paths.

- 33. The concrete surface would be nice if it had a “slurry seal” giving better footing for the horses.**

The slurry seal is an asphalt admixture, which may not be compatible with the concrete surface. The Forest Preserve District will investigate the feasibility of surface treatments for the concrete bridge deck.