

# **2020 River Lane Reconstruction**

**From IL 251 (Second Street) to Forest Hills Road**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*Q: why is the City rebuilding River Lane?*

**A: River Lane pavement condition is to a point where it needs some major maintenance or a full reconstruction. The water main under River Lane is old and needs to be replaced. Since we will be removing a large part of the pavement for the water main work, the City has decided to move forward and replace all of the pavement and curbs to completely reconstruct River Lane. Typically, a new pavement will last 20 to 30 years without major maintenance.**

*Q: when will it be done?*

**A: The project is under design right now. The schedule is to bid the project in late winter for favorable pricing and begin the work on May 1, 2020. The project will be completed before the end of the construction season in 2020.**

*Q: how will you handle bikes and pedestrians?*

**The City encourages the use of alternate forms of transportation and is working to comply with national ADA requirements for sidewalks as streets in the City are fixed. On the western end of River Lane, the current narrow sidewalks do not meet current regulations. Unfortunately, the width of the street right of way is also narrow. As a compromise, we are proposing a fully compliant sidewalk on the south side of the street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Walker Avenue. The north side of the street will be grass only, since this is the side with all of the utility poles.**

**A dedicated bike lane will be added to the eastern industrial section where there is no need for on-street parking. Where parking will be present, the bike route will be marked but no formal bike lanes will be allowed, because there is not enough room.**

*Q: will I lose my parking?*

**In order to fit the proper ADA sidewalk in the narrow right of way, we will need to restrict parking to the south side of the street only. This will be a dedicated parking lane that will allow two full lanes of traffic in addition to the parking.**

*Q: can the power lines be put underground?*

Commonwealth Edison would install underground power lines but at a huge cost to the City. Then the telephone and cable companies would need to do the same. If done, each homeowner would need to replace their current services with underground connections. Due to the direct costs to the City and residents, the poles will remain. Com Ed will relocate certain poles at no cost, so some poles will be moved further away from driveways and street corners.

*Q: will trucks still be allowed on River Lane?*

Yes, River Lane is a truck route and the businesses on the east end of the street still need to use it. Since there will still be trucks, we wanted to create a dedicated parking lane for the residents on the west end to keep them out of the traffic lanes.

*Q: will work be done on my property?*

**A:** Most of the work is expected to be confined to the public right of way. The driveways within the right of way will be reconstructed in concrete. If we need to replace any additional pavement on your property to maintain your current driveway slope, we will work with you in advance and this will be done at no cost to you. The new sidewalk will be installed on the City right of way. Existing front walks on the north side of the street will be extended to the curb at no cost to the residents. There might be some minor restoration work needed within front yard areas. The City will keep you informed prior to construction and any work done near your property line will be restored to as good or better condition once the project is done.

*Q: will the road be open during construction?*

**A:** The road will be closed to general traffic but open to residents that live on the street. This will be a construction zone so you will need to expect to be driving on gravel for part of the construction season.