

Talking Points for November 3 GO Bond Referendum

- On the November 3, 2020 election ballot, the Village will seek voter approval to sell \$10 million in general obligation bonds to finance street, sidewalk and stormwater improvements.
- The Board is bringing the question forward now to minimize the impact on taxpayers. Because the debt that the Village issued to build the Flossmoor Public Library will be paid off in 2021, taxpayers will be paying about the same as they are now.
- Why is this needed? The Village does not have enough funding to complete much-needed street and sidewalk projects. Without a significant investment in the program, annual street resurfacing will fall further behind.
- Currently, the Village receives enough from the Motor Fuel Tax to resurface about 1 mile of street per year, which is not enough to fix our streets, considering that we need to resurface 32.9 miles of streets. Collectively, over the past three years, the Village has supplemented the MFT budget with \$540,000 from the Village's main operating fund to increase the amount of street resurfacing that can be completed. That is not sustainable because it requires us to take money from our general operating fund which we use for other Village services, like public safety, code enforcement, snow and ice removal and parkway tree maintenance.
- We recognize that taxes are high. The Village receives approximately 16% of the property taxes you pay. The remainder goes to the schools and other taxing bodies.
- The cost of the proposed stormwater improvements to fix the flooding downtown and upstream in the Heather Hill neighborhood is around \$6 million. The Village is applying for grants for the flooding work, which would allow more of the \$10 million in bond proceeds to be used on streets and sidewalks.
- Because we don't know exactly how much we'll get in grants for the flooding projects, we have developed scenarios for spending \$3 million, \$5 million or \$10 million on streets. With \$3 million, we'll resurface about 4 miles of streets. With \$5 million, we'll resurface 7.4 miles and with \$10 million, we would complete resurfacing of 20 miles.
- Street resurfacing work will begin as early as 2021, and the viaduct project will begin as soon as our grant status is known.
- Even if you don't live on a street that needs to be resurfaced now or are in an area that floods, the state of our infrastructure is a community-wide issue. By catching up on the worst streets now, the Village will be prepared to address other streets in the future.
- With flooding, the viaduct is the main access point between the west and east sides of the Village, so when it floods and must be closed, our emergency response vehicles cannot travel to the east side of the Village and we have to rely on mutual aid from other communities.