



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar Votes Yes on Transportation Funding for Projects in Five 16th District Townships

Cicero, Berwyn, Melrose Park, Bellwood and Northlake will receive nearly \$1.2 million total from the County's Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH)

(Cook County, IL) - The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved funding for transportation projects and initiatives led by the County's Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH). These vital projects boost economic development, build up regional transportation and improve the quality of life throughout Cook County. Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar joined his colleagues on the Cook County Board of Commissioners to vote yes to approve this funding.

"Bringing this historic investment into the 16th District will impact our residents lives for the better for years to come," said Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar. "These last two years have been tough, and it can be hard to remember what life was like in our communities before COVID-19. This funding will be critical to our continued re-opening of our communities, allowing residents and their family and friends to take advantage of all that these wonderful 16th District cities, towns and villages have to offer."

The five communities that received this funding are Cicero, Melrose Park, Bellwood, Berwyn and Northlake. Each project increases accessibility and equity in their communities, helping residents re-emerge from the pandemic in safe and exciting ways.

Town of Cicero

DoTH and the Town of Cicero are partnering to begin work associated with their \$245,000 award for construction and construction engineering for the Austin Boulevard Viaduct Improvement Project at the

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (just north of 31st Street). The project will include the installation of new underpass lighting in addition to roadway and sidewalk upgrades.

Village of Melrose Park

DoTH and the Village of Melrose Park are partnering to begin work associated with their \$566,000 award for the construction and construction engineering for safety improvements at IL-64 (North Avenue) and George Street. Improvements include a realigned intersection, new traffic signals, sidewalks, ADA ramps and a bike path.

Village of Bellwood

DoTH and the Village of Bellwood have partnered to begin work associated with their \$231,000 award for design engineering services for the St. Charles Road Improvement Project, which will connect residential and commercial areas in the village. To bring this corridor up to today's design standards and best serve the community's needs, the project will resurface the roadway, repair existing drainage and pavement structures as well as sidewalk replacement.

City of Berwyn

DoTH and the City of Berwyn are partnering to begin work associated with their \$88,000 award for preliminary engineering services for the 26th Street and Ridgeland Avenue Corridor Improvements Project, on 26th Street from Harlem Avenue to Lombard Avenue as well as Ridgeland Avenue from Ogden Avenue to 26th Avenue. These corridors provide direct access to several transit options in addition to local schools, parks, business areas, churches and municipal buildings. This project will improve sidewalks, streetscaping, curb extensions at intersections that accommodate heavy pedestrian traffic and enhance roadway and pedestrian lighting complete with activated flashing beacons or lighted crosswalks.

Village of Northlake

DoTH and the Village of Northlake are partnering to begin work associated with their \$70,000 award for the land acquisition necessary for the intersection improvements at North Avenue and Railroad Avenue. This area is a central trucking corridor within the village. This project will improve the movement of trucks by implementing modern design standards. Improvements include adding a southbound right turn lane, ADA sidewalk upgrades and new pedestrian crossing signals.

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