



County to help fund major road repair projects in Harvey, Flossmoor

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CHICAGO | Center Avenue in Harvey and a Flossmoor Road viaduct that provides access to a Metra station will be improved under two measures approved Wednesday by the Cook County Board. In Harvey, officials want to rebuild Center Avenue from 159th Street south to 171st Street. That road provides access to several industrial parks, and heavy trucks have left it worn out.

County government is overseeing the project and is responsible for its costs.

Harvey will provide the county with \$650,000 for the project, which it received from the Federal Highway Administration. Harvey officials will now turn the project over to the county Transportation and Highways Department.

Highway Superintendent John Yonan said the city's contribution will be used to pay for relocating a water main under the street.

Other improvements will include new traffic signals and turn lanes. Work on the project, which the County Board approved in July, is scheduled to begin in the spring.

Also on Wednesday, commissioners approved a reimbursement agreement with Flossmoor. The village is rehabilitating the downtown business district at Flossmoor Road to improve its appearance.

Under the deal, the county will give Flossmoor \$83,000 to help pay for improvements at the Flossmoor Road viaduct that also provides access to the Metra commuter train station that was rebuilt earlier this year.

County spokesman Frank Shuftan said the county's share of funds will help pay for improvements to reduce flooding.

In other business, the County Board:

* Approved a resolution by Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy, who was absent from the board's meeting due to illness.

That resolution urges the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to include the Cross Rail Chicago project on its list of priorities for the future.

The project is meant to provide direct connections for Metra commuter trains.

Locally, it suggests that people using Metra Electric line trains can use an existing 16th Street connector track so trains could go directly to Union Station instead of the Randolph Street/Millennium Park station, to transfer to other Metra train lines.

That connector track also would be available to trains on the Southeast Commuter Rail District that is proposed to run south to Crete.

* Approved a settlement of a lawsuit filed last year in U.S. District Court by Frank Coconate against the county Department of Environmental Affairs. The settlement calls for a \$15,000 payment to Coconate and \$10,000 in fees to his attorney, former County Commissioner Tony Peraica.

Commissioner Elizabeth Gorman, R-Orland Park, said she views the lawsuit as frivolous and wishes the county would resist further. "We need to send a message to other people considering litigation so that we don't waste county funds," she said.