



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Library District's Review of the Lake Zurich Road Realignment Project and the Intergovernmental Agreement

What is the Village of Barrington requesting of the Barrington Public Library District regarding the proposed Lake Zurich Road realignment project?

The Village of Barrington is proposing that Lake Zurich Road be re-routed from its current intersection with Northwest Highway to intersect instead with Northwest Highway at the Berry Road traffic signal at the Library's entrance. In order to accomplish this reconfiguration, the Village has asked for the Library District to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to sell a substantial portion (over 2.5 acres) of Library District land. After the purchase, the land would be owned by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Village of Barrington.

How much property do the Village and IDOT want to purchase from the Library District?

The Village seeks to purchase 2.53 acres of land outright of the Library District's property, in addition to another 2.7 acres to be used as a temporary construction easement for the duration of construction. The Library District currently owns 12.319 acres of property, and this purchase would reduce the Library District's property by 20.5%.

What are the Library District's main concerns about the proposal?

The Barrington Public Library District serves 14 communities and unincorporated areas over a 72 square-mile area. It owns only one piece of property and maintains only one library facility to serve its population of 44,157 community members. The Library is situated in a desirable location in the Village of Barrington, centrally located to all of its patrons throughout the Library District.

Taking into account the responsibility the Library Board has to all of its Library District constituents and taxpayers, the permanent sale of a large amount of property has significant impact on the Library District's operations and options, present and future, for many generations to come. The Library's essential safety and operational concerns are:

- Impaired use of the remaining land
- Increased proximity of Library building to highly trafficked Route 14, as well as the newly rerouted Lake Zurich Road
- Increased difficulty in entering and exiting the library's parking lot, which sees an average of 1,000 visitors daily
- Negative experiences for Library patrons
- Lack of control over design and execution of the end result
- Destruction of the Library's park-like setting

How does the sale impair the Library District's use of the remaining land?

The Library District's property already has several existing limitations for expansion, including the location of the Berry Road entrance, the location of the water tower, as well as the elevation on the east side of the property. However, there is clearly decided value in maintaining options for expansion for future generations.

The Library District's professional advisors have noted that the functionality of the property would be altered by this proposed sale, by not only decreasing the size of the property, but also significantly changing the shape of it.

If the Library Board sells this land today, the Library District permanently and severely limits the ability for future generations to expand the library building and services at this site. As the population that the Barrington Public Library District serves continues to grow, and library services continue to evolve, the loss of this property would be significant.

How is the Library Board making the decision whether or not to sell the District's land?

The project as currently presented to the Library Board has undergone many iterations and required a great deal of outside analysis, from the Library's architect as well as civil engineers and landscape architects. This professional input has been in addition to numerous meetings with the Village and IDOT, as well as conversation at several Library Board meetings. Throughout this lengthy review process, the Library Board has received public comment, primarily from residents who regularly travel Lake Zurich Road and who reside in the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as constituents throughout the District. All of this input has been weighed as negotiations have continued.

Why has the Library Board not yet made a decision on the Village offer?

The Library Board has not yet received a final appraisal from either the Village's professional nor from its own appraiser. In late December 2017, the Village increased the amount of land it wished to purchase. Only recently was the location of that additional land purchase forwarded to the Library District.

What is the current status of the Library District's review of this proposal?

- The Village of Barrington has approved an Intergovernmental Agreement, drafted with input from the Library.
- The Library Board is waiting to receive a final appraisal of the land requested by the Village, before taking a vote on whether or not to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement in principle and continue with negotiations.
- The Library Board expects to take that vote in April 2018.