

Item #11:
Village President Rodriguez
A. IL Route 53 Extension

2006-R-29

**A RESOLUTION
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ROUTE IL 53 (FAP 342) &
AMENDING THE VILLAGE BUDGET FOR THE OPPOSITION THEREOF**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Long Grove, Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

WHEREAS, The Village of Long Grove recognizes the compelling need for solutions that address traffic congestion throughout Lake County and strongly supports solving existing severe congestion problems on arterial roadways through repair, modernization, reconstruction, and widening which would offer effective congestion relief at a much lower cost than constructing the extension,

WHEREAS, The Village of Long Grove recognizes the compelling need for solutions that address traffic congestion throughout Lake County and strongly supports solving existing severe congestion problems through public transportation such as: expanding the E, J & E rail line to establish a Metra commuter service; eliminating at-grade crossings for the North Central commuter line to maximize the efficiency of existing roadways; promoting and implementing park-and-ride bus connections to local commercial and office park centers; Intermodal infrastructure improvements, such as bicycle and walking paths; and,

WHEREAS, There are limited funds available for road construction, maintenance, and repair. The funds that are available should be used to upgrade and maintain existing roadways, such as Route 22 and Route 45, instead of constructing a new road which would be tremendously more expensive since much more right-of-way would be required for a new road than the expansion of the existing right-of-way; and,

WHEREAS, Extending FAP 342 (Illinois Route 53 Extension) will increase traffic on the existing arterial roads and intersections throughout Lake County that have been identified as being greatly congested and in need of expansion/improvements without the additional traffic generated by Illinois Route 53; and,

WHEREAS, The construction of Illinois Route 53 Extension, as designated, would focus economic pressure on development rural areas where development is not desired and divert economic pressure for development in existing cities within Lake County which desire such growth, such as the Cities of Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion; and,

WHEREAS, The Illinois Route 53 Extension would attract unwanted and unnecessary suburban sprawl, remove jobs from central urban areas, add to an already accelerating rate of development throughout Lake County promoting new suburban type development along this new corridor and self-defeating the avowed purpose for the extension in the first place, traffic control and amelioration of the existing heavy traffic problems in Lake County; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed Illinois Route 53 Extension would traverse and irretrievably damage a number of environmentally sensitive areas including: the flood plain and marsh wetlands off of Indian Creek in Hawthorn Woods; wetlands and flood plain between Diamond Lake and Sylvan Lake, which is a main drainage pattern; wetlands and flood plain east of Countryside Lake; major wetland area at or near the intersection of Midlothian and Route 83, west of Mundelein; major wetland areas immediately south of Grayslake; major marsh area in the southern portion of Long Grove northerly of Lake Cook Road; the large marsh complex immediately north of the property commonly known as the Brickman Farm in Long Grove, which is used by wild fowl and other wild game; A portion of the natural area in Deerwood Estates Subdivision within Long Grove. It would cutoff a substantial portion of the lots from the balance of the development. It would disrupt and destroy the wetland and sensitive upland conservancy soils; the Long Grove/Kildeer marsh (#72) in Long Grove; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of the northern extension of Illinois Route 53 through Lake County would have numerous negative environmental consequences such as irreparable damage to wetlands, wildlife and native species, increased risk of flooding; increased noise pollution, ground water contamination, lower air quality within Long Grove and Lake County; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Long Grove opposes the northern extension of Illinois Route 53 through Lake County due to its limited access, negative environmental consequences, damage to the rural character of communities within its path, and the acceleration of improper development and suburban sprawl that the proposed alternative would bring to Lake County; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Long Grove challenges the State of Illinois and the County of Lake to put forth new alternatives reflecting immediately attainable and viable solutions to the traffic congestion adversely impacting the quality of life of Lake County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Long Grove, Lake County, Illinois as follows:

SECTION 1. For all of the foregoing reasons, the Village of Long Grove hereby strenuously objects to the currently designated extension of Illinois Route 53 north of Lake Cook Road. The Village of Long Grove will take all lawful steps available to prevent the construction of this improvement. Long Grove submits that the Illinois Department of Transportation should give great consideration to this resolution since Long Grove would be one of the communities most directly and adversely affected by this extension.

SECTION 2. The Village Clerk is authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the County of Lake, and all other interested persons who request a copy thereof.

SECTION 3. The Village Manager is authorized and directed to prepare an ordinance amending the Village Budget FY 06-07 increasing the "Route 53" line item to \$50,000 in opposition of the proposed Illinois Route 53 Extension.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be in effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED THIS 26th DAY OF September, 2006.

AYES: (6) Barry, Borawski, Hannon, Klein, Lazakis, and Schmitt

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF September, 2006.

Village President, Maria Rodriguez

ATTEST:

Village Clerk, Karen Schultheis