

TO: Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Rob Sperl, Director of Parks and Planning  
THROUGH: Michael Benard, Executive Director  
RE: Gary Avenue Temporary Traffic Control Improvements  
DATE: March 16, 2022

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**SUMMARY:**

City of Wheaton engineering staff have indicated that it would be difficult to permit construction of our parking lot prior to having the traffic signal installed at Prairie Avenue. Their existing traffic study from October 1, 2018 (<https://www.wheaton.il.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3218?fileID=4426>) recommended a future traffic signal at this intersection citing expected increases in traffic and the development of our parking lot. They have stated that we will need to provide our own traffic engineering study as a part of the permit for the parking lot.

It is important to note that the city's 2018 traffic study noted the future development of our parking lot and accounted for some increased traffic. However, at that time we were considering a pedestrian bridge that has since been abandoned. This means the increase in pedestrian traffic across Gary Avenue will be considered.

Wight Engineering has provided a cost from KLOA for a new traffic study. It should be noted that the cost for this study took into account the previous work done for the city. In addition to that study, we have asked them to look at some options for temporary improvements that could allow us to construct the parking lot in advance of the city completing the overall Gary right of way improvements. Attached is the proposal for this work.

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:**

Wight Engineering's Phase 1 proposal in the amount of \$24,700 was approved at the October 2020 board meeting.

**REVENUE OR FUNDING IMPLICATIONS:**

Original contract:	\$24,700 (approved)
<b>Traffic and Parking Study:</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
<b>Pedestrian Crossing Evaluation:</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Gary Avenue Concepts:</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>
New Contract Total:	\$43,700

These expenses are paid by the park district and reimbursed by the Cosley Foundation.

**STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:**

The Cosley Foundation approved of this additional scope at their February 23, 2022 meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Wight Engineering proposal dated February 15, 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners approve the proposal from Wight Engineering for additional professional services in the amount of \$19,000.



February 15, 2022

Mr. Rob Sperl, CPRE  
Director of Parks and Planning  
Wheaton Park District  
102 E. Wesley  
Wheaton, IL 60187

**Additional Professional Services Proposal  
Cosley Zoo Parking Lot**

Dear Mr. Sperl:

Wight & Company (Wight) is pleased to submit this proposal to you and the Wheaton Park District (WPD) to provide additional services to the existing contract for the Cosley Zoo Parking Lot project. Wight will provide the following services identified below:

**Traffic and Parking Study**

1. **Data Collection.** A field reconnaissance of the site, the existing zoo parking lot and access drives, and adjacent roadways will be conducted to inventory the existing physical and operating characteristics. Discussions will be held with the appropriate government agencies concerning traffic volumes, the planned Gary Avenue roadway improvements, proposed developments in the area, and site access issues. Previous weekday morning, weekday evening, and Saturday midday traffic counts performed at the following intersections as part of the 2018 Gary Avenue traffic study will be used for the study:
  - Gary Avenue with Jewell Road
  - Gary Avenue with Hawthorne Boulevard
  - Gary Avenue with Prairie Avenue
  - Gary Avenue with Harrison Avenue

In addition, updated weekday morning, weekday evening, and Saturday midday peak period traffic counts will be conducted at the access drive serving the existing zoo parking lot. Further, parking occupancy surveys will be conducted at the existing zoo parking lot every hour from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on one peak day at the zoo.

2. **Directional Distribution Analysis.** The directions from which vehicles approach/depart the zoo parking lot will be estimated based on existing directions of approach as determined from the traffic counts and previous studies conducted in the area.
3. **Trip Generation Analysis.** Estimates of the additional peak hour trips generated to and from the expanded zoo will be based on the traffic counts at the existing zoo parking lot and the existing and proposed expanded operations of the zoo as provided by the operator.
4. **Traffic Assignments.** The additional peak hour trips that will be generated by the expanded zoo will be assigned to the roadway system and the proposed parking lot access drives based on the directional distribution developed in Item 2. The expansion-generated traffic will be combined with through (non-site) traffic for peak hours. Included in these assignments will be the increase in traffic resulting from other ambient traffic growth in the area and the reassignment of the existing zoo traffic from the existing parking lot to the proposed parking lot.

5. **Evaluations and Recommendations.** Capacity analyses will be conducted for critical intersections to determine the ability of the existing roadways and access drives to accommodate the projected traffic volumes. The capacity analyses of the projected conditions will include the proposed Gary Avenue improvements and the traffic signal at the Gary Avenue/Prairie Avenue/access drive intersection. If necessary, recommendations will be developed with respect to external roadway and/or traffic control modifications.
6. **Site Access and Internal Circulation.** We will conduct a peer review of the proposed parking lot plan including access, circulation, and parking layout, and the ability of these elements to accommodate vehicle and pedestrian traffic safely and efficiently. Based on the review and the results of the capacity analyses, modifications and/or improvements to the proposed plan, if required, will be identified.
7. **Parking Evaluation.** Estimates of the zoo's existing peak parking demand and projected peak parking demand with the proposed expansion will be determined based on the City of Wheaton's requirements, the existing parking surveys, and the existing and proposed expanded operation of the zoo as provided by the operator. The existing parking demand and projected parking demand with the proposed expansion will be compared to the parking supply to determine the adequacy and the need for the future parking supply.
8. **Study Reports and/or Documents.** A copy of a memorandum report summarizing our findings and recommendations with respect to the proposed zoo expansion will be submitted upon completion of our work.

#### **Pedestrian Crossing Evaluation**

1. **Review Proposed Pedestrian Crossings.** KLOA, Inc will review the designs of both the midblock pedestrian crossing proposed by the zoo and the pedestrian crossing proposed as part of the traffic signal at the Gary Avenue/Prairie Avenue intersection. If necessary, recommendations will be developed to ensure the design of both pedestrian crossings meets current design standards as provided in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), improve operations, and/or enhance safety.
2. **Examine Alternative Pedestrian Crossings.** KLOA, Inc will examine alternative locations and designs for the pedestrian crossings.
3. **Development of Conceptual Exhibits.** KLOA, Inc will prepare conceptual exhibits of the two proposed alternatives which will include any recommendations developed in Task 1 and any other alternative pedestrian crossings developed in Task 2.
4. **Preliminary Evaluation.** The operation of each of the various alternative pedestrian crossings developed in Task 3 will be preliminarily evaluated to determine how they will function and their impact on all modes of transportation. The advantages and disadvantages of each alternative will be summarized and a table comparing design/operational elements of each alternative will be prepared.
5. **Study Reports and/or Documents.** The results of the preliminary evaluation will be summarized in a memorandum report.

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#### **Gary Avenue Concepts**

Wight will prepare two concept plans of the proposed Cosley Zoo Parking Lot Expansion and Gary Avenue Improvements as an interim condition (or potentially permanent condition) due to the City of Wheaton Gary  
2500 North Frontage Road | Darien, IL 60561

wightco.com

Avenue improvements being delayed due to funding. Wight will look at solutions for both pedestrians and vehicles including off-site roadway improvements, widening, mid-block crossing, pedestrian signals, temporary traffic signals and similar solutions. Wight proposes to include at least one concept plan showing improvements at the Prairie Avenue intersection and one concept plan showing full access at the north side of the site with a mid-block pedestrian crossing. Wight will include up to two meetings with the Park District and one meeting with the City of Wheaton to discuss the concept plans. Once the concepts have been reviewed by both the Park District and City Wight can finalize and update the cost estimate for any additional roadway improvements.

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**Pedestrian Crossing Evaluation: \$6,000**  
**Gary Avenue Concepts: \$5,500**  
New Contract Total: \$43,700

We thank you for the opportunity to continue our partnership with the Wheaton Park District. If this proposal meets your approval, please sign one copy and return it to us. If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,  
WIGHT & COMPANY



Shawn M. Benson, PE  
Director of Land Development



Jason Dwyer, AIA, LEED AP  
President, Design & Construction

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title