



A news release from the Village of Brookfield

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Village Receives Grant for Downtown Improvement Project from WSMTD

Brookfield, IL—The Village of Brookfield won a \$130,000 grant on Wednesday to help make much-needed improvements to the downtown Brookfield Metra station area. The overall project will include \$197,000 of improvements to the downtown district.

The West Suburban Mass Transit District (WSMTD) awarded the grant, which will cover 67 percent of the \$197,000 project. Improvements include a new concrete landing to remove tripping hazards, ADA-compliant ramps, station tuck-pointing, wayfinding signage, and the installation of new planters, recycling receptacles, and bicycle parking.

The Brookfield station, one of three local Metra stops, is located in the heart of the Village at Prairie Avenue along the BNSF train route. It is the most-used station in Brookfield, with an average of 607 weekday passengers, according to 2014 Metra data. Additionally, 70 percent of Metra riders in Brookfield walk to the train, the highest percentage among suburbs along the BNSF route.

“With so many riders, many arriving on foot, these improvements are necessary to make the station more comfortable and accessible for everyone who uses it,” said Nick Greifer, Director of Community and Economic Development for the Village. Greifer further said, “It’s a positive step forward for pedestrians, for bicyclists who need more bike racks, and for older adults in our community needing safer access to the train station. It also extends the life of the building, helps us avoid costly repairs down the road, and maintains a community asset important to our downtown district.”

This project results directly from the Village’s *2020 Master Plan*, which called for a redevelopment of the Brookfield Station area with a focus on improvements for the many residents who walk to and from the train.

Brookfield received several grants from WSMTD in the past for smaller-scale projects, but this grant is significantly larger in scope. This grant helps pay for improvements to the station along with the surrounding area. The Village may pursue a second round of upgrades focused on safer pedestrian access to the station to help navigate a hazardous intersection of four streets: Brookfield Avenue, Prairie Avenue, Grand Boulevard, and Fairview Avenue.

“This is a crucial win for our downtown. The grant application was written shortly after the creation of the Community and Economic Development Department. The focus on planning implementation is strategically paying off for the Village of Brookfield, and the grant is positive proof of that,” Village Manager Keith Sbiral said.

For more information about the Village of Brookfield please contact the Village Manager’s Office at 708.485.7344 or contact Keith R. Sbiral at ksbiral@brookfieldil.gov.

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