



MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: **Naperville City Council**

By: City Manager's office

9/18/2025

A. MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Source:

1. Andy Hynes, P.E.,
Deputy Director of
Transportation, Engineering
and Development/
City Engineer

Subject:

Riverwalk Grand Pavilion
Questionnaire

Action:

FYI

2. Matt Calpin,
Deputy City Engineer,
TED Business Group

North Aurora Road Improvement
Project - Phase 2

FYI

**CITY OF NAPERVILLE
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: September 18, 2025

TO: Doug Krieger, City Manager

FROM: Andrew Hynes, P.E., Deputy Director of Transportation,
Engineering and Development/City Engineer

SUBJECT: Riverwalk Grand Pavilion Questionnaire

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Mayor and City Council about the upcoming public questionnaire on the use and potential improvements to the Riverwalk Grand Pavilion.

BACKGROUND

The Grand Pavilion is a 3,200 square-foot covered shelter located near the west end of the Riverwalk that serves as a community gathering space. It hosts a variety of private parties and special events, including reunions, corporate events, graduation parties, etc. The Naperville Park District manages the rental schedule of the facility. Between April and October, the facility held approximately 90 scheduled events in each of the past two years.

The Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan includes a project to update the venue, which was originally constructed in 1987. Currently, City and Park District staff are partnering to create a short questionnaire directed to the public and past renters to help determine enhancements that would provide a better experience and further define the project scope. The public's feedback will help us prioritize potential improvements already outlined in the 2031 Riverwalk Master Plan, such as incorporating green infrastructure, a new podium, and an expanded plaza surface. The questionnaire results will be used to inform the project design, with implementation tentatively scheduled for 2030. An improved Grand Pavilion can attract more visitors and help strengthen the downtown area.

DISCUSSION:

It is important to note that although the questionnaire results are not statistically significant, the information can help guide future improvements to the Grand Pavilion. This questionnaire will be distributed via email to voluntary Polco subscribers, comprising over 1,200 residents who opted in for community questionnaires. Additionally, parties that have previously rented the Grand Pavilion and regular visitors to the Riverwalk are encouraged to participate and provide feedback on their past experiences at the facility and potential modifications

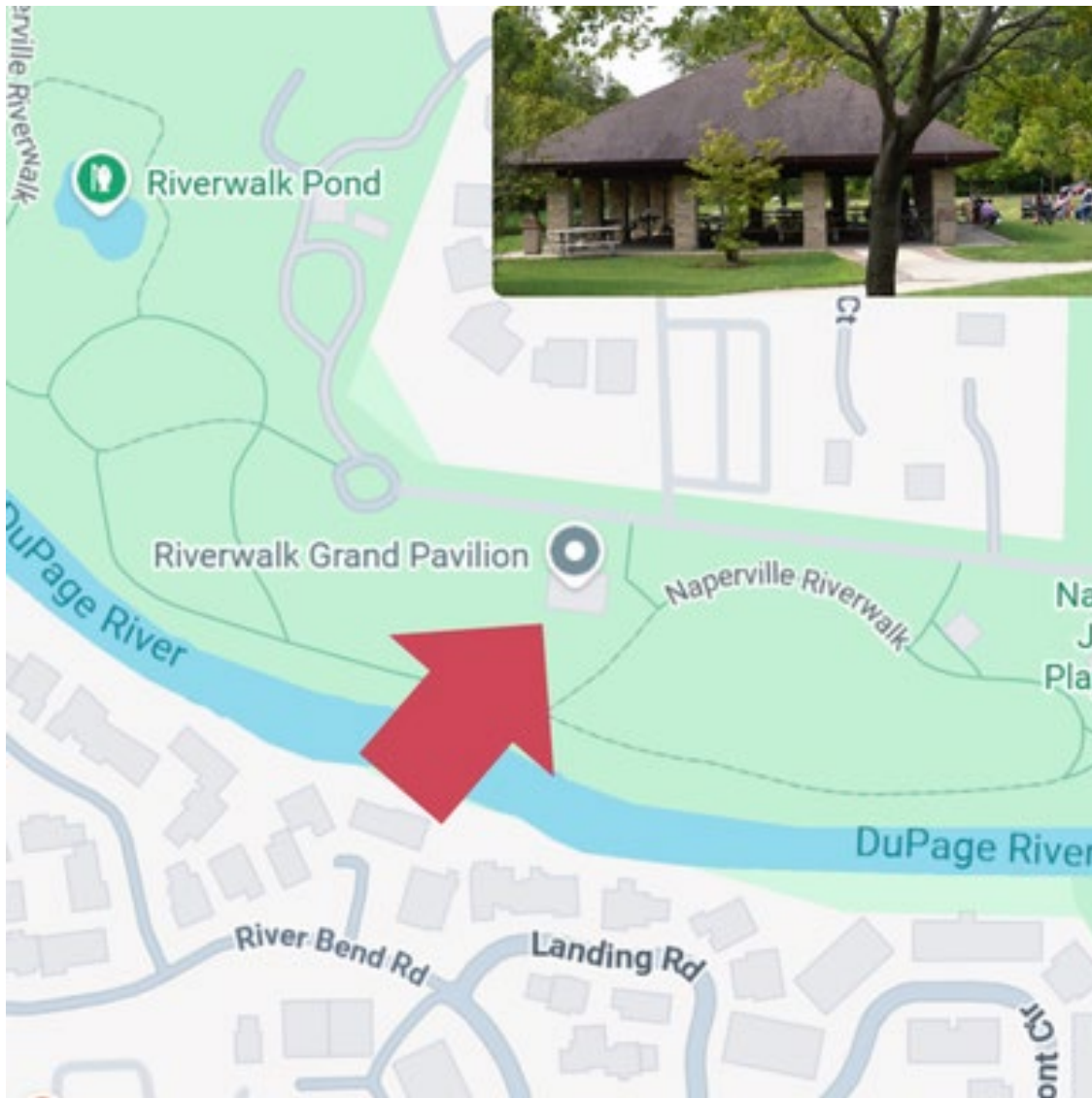
through the questionnaire link. The questionnaire will be open in the morning of September 25 and close at 4 p.m. on October 9.

The City's Communications Department and the Naperville Park District will jointly promote the questionnaire through multiple channels, including signage with QR codes, postcards to residents near the venue, posters at several Park District facilities, social media and more. The questionnaire report will be shared with the public through a future Riverwalk Commission meeting agenda and posted to the questionnaire webpage.

RECOMMENDATION:

Please distribute this memorandum to the City Council through the Manager's Memorandum.

ATTACHMENT: Location of the Riverwalk Grand Pavilion (912 Honorary Sindt Memorial Ct.)



CITY OF NAPERVILLE MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2025

TO: Doug Krieger, City Manager
Jennifer Loudon, Director of TED Business Group

FROM: Matt Calpin, Deputy City Engineer, TED Business Group

SUBJECT: North Aurora Road Improvement Project – Phase 2

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Mayor and City Council with an update regarding the second and final phase of the North Aurora Road Improvement Project.

BACKGROUND:

North Aurora Road between Illinois Route 59 and Eola Road is a minor arterial road with an average daily traffic of approximately 22,000 vehicles. The road is a primary connection between the cities of Naperville and Aurora and provides access to the Route 59 Metra station, numerous businesses, and subdivisions. North Aurora Road between Frontenac Road and Pennsbury Lane is a heavily traversed roadway with a single lane in each direction, known to create congestion along this corridor. The existing traffic, which already exceeds the capacity of the current roadway, is expected to grow to nearly 33,000 vehicles by 2040.

The City of Naperville, the City of Aurora, and Naperville Township first entered into an intergovernmental agreement on April 18, 2006, to initiate and secure funding to reduce vehicle congestion and crashes and improve access for bicyclists and pedestrians in the area. The project, led by Naperville, was divided into two phases: one to widen the road and add pedestrian and bicycle access, and another to replace a roughly 110-year-old railroad bridge in the project area.

The first phase, conducted in partnership with the Naperville Township Road District, improved and widened the pavement between Fairway Drive and Frontenac Road to accommodate two traffic lanes in each direction, with a center turn lane, multi-use trail and sidewalk, as well as a sound wall and improvements to roadway lighting and drainage. This work was completed in 2023.

The second phase of work will improve the Canadian National/Wisconsin Central Railroad bridge over North Aurora Road in collaboration with the Naperville Township Road District and the City of Aurora, as each agency has jurisdiction over a portion of the roadway along this corridor. Work will consist of replacing the roughly 110-year-old railroad bridge with a new structure that will span the newly expanded five traffic lanes on North Aurora Road, as well as the multi-use trail and sidewalk. In addition, roadway

lighting, a pump station and increased vertical clearance will be provided. Work is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2027, pending any unforeseen circumstances.

The total cost for the second phase of the project is currently projected at approximately \$52,000,000. To date, the City of Naperville, the City of Aurora, and Naperville Township have spent approximately \$6,500,000 on the project for easements, land acquisition, preliminary and design engineering, environmental services, and utility coordination. In addition to the local funding, the project is supported by \$40,000,000 of external funding. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has committed \$25,000,000 of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Shared Funding, and IDOT has committed \$15,000,000 through the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF).

The North Aurora Road Project Team was established in 2024 and granted authority by the Naperville City Council, Aurora City Council, and Naperville Township Board to review and approve agreements for the North Aurora Road widening project. The Project Team will remain in place until the project is complete.

INFORMATION:

Construction crews will begin work on the second phase of the project the week of September 29, 2025. Initial work will consist of land clearing in preparation for the installation of the pump station, which will help improve roadway drainage at the underpass location. Crews will also begin construction of the temporary bridge, which will allow continued rail traffic throughout the project.

Work will mainly take place on the shoulder of the roadway, with little to no impact on traffic, though intermittent lane closures may be necessary depending on the work being performed. While one lane of traffic in each direction is expected to be maintained for most of the construction process, motorists should still be alert for workers in the area, changing traffic patterns, and are encouraged to find alternate routes when possible.

In early spring 2026, a detour will be put in place to accommodate the removal and reconstruction of the bridge and allow for a large gas pipeline relocation required to widen the roadway. More specific information about the detour and impacts on traffic will be shared in advance of the work.

TED staff is working closely with Communications to notify the public and other interested parties. Project details and updates will also be posted on the City's website at www.naperville.il.us/north-aurora-improvements.

RECOMMENDATION:

Please share this information with the Mayor and City Council through the September 18, 2025, Manager's Memorandum.