



Village of  
**Elm Grove**

# Reconstruction of Gebhardt Road and Pathway Construction Referendum

Referendum on the November 8, 2022 election ballot



# What is a referendum vote?



## AT ITS CORE

A referendum is a direct vote by the electorate on a specific project, proposal, law or political question on their election ballots by or from their government.



## IN ELM GROVE

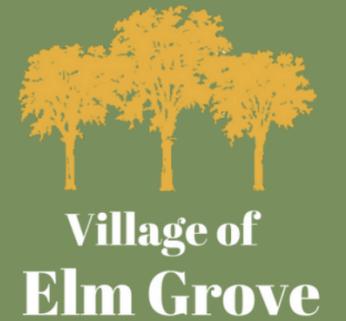
In the April 2022 election voters approved a referendum that requires any future public works estimated to cost more than \$1 million be subject to a separate referendum vote.

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## This referendum's question:

“Shall the Village of Elm Grove spend \$1,700,000 on the reconstruction of Gebhardt Road including the construction of an off road pathway with the Village’s expected contribution to be \$340,000 if Federal grant monies are awarded, or \$1,300,000 expected Village contribution if Federal grant monies are not awarded?”

# Project Details



## Gebhardt Reconstruction

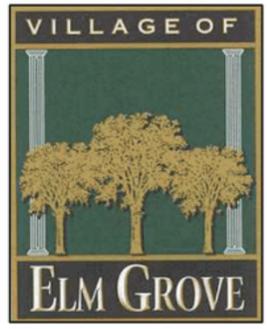
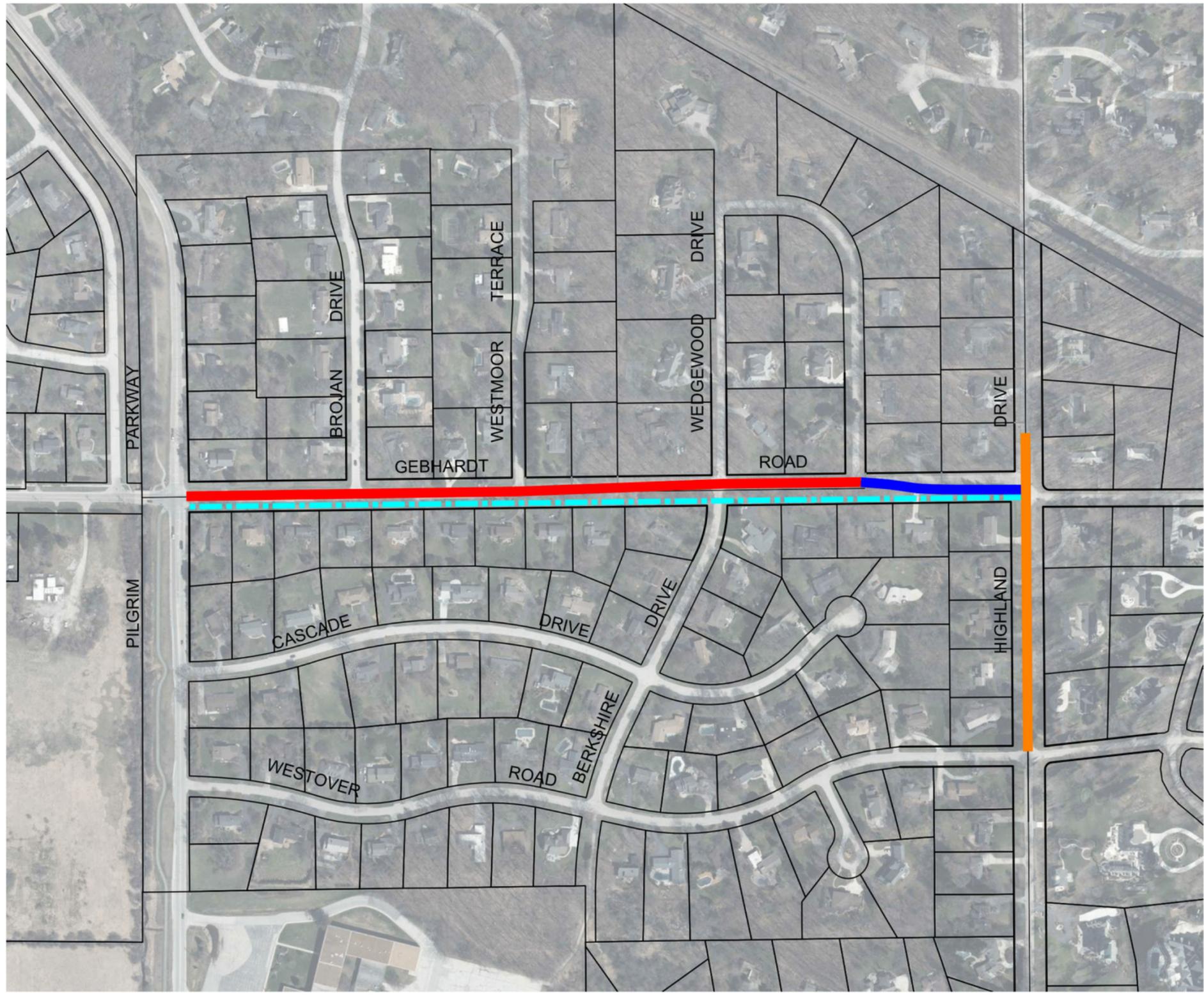
- Gebhardt Road is currently one of the worst rated major roads in the Village.
- The road needs complete reconstruction in order to correct the varying width and drainage issues.
- Improved sight lines, curbs, and a left turn lane leading onto Highland Drive are being planned to alleviate current traffic and safety issues.

## Pathway Construction

- This new section of pathway provides an important west - east connection in the northwest area of the Village that also connects to Brookfield's pathway on the westside of Pilgrim Parkway.
- This new pathway segment provides safer and easier access to Pilgrim Park Middle School. The planned curb and gutter improves pedestrian safety.

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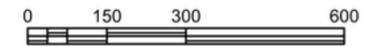
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**GEBHARDT ROAD RECONSTRUCTION  
& PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY**

**LEGEND:**

-  **GEBHARDT ROAD PULVERIZE & REPAVE**  
(Includes Roadway Widening, Culvert Replacement, and Ditch Reconstruction)
-  **GEBHARDT ROAD REALIGNMENT**
-  **HIGHLAND DRIVE PULVERIZE & REPAVE**
-  **GEBHARDT ROAD PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY**



SCALE IN FEET DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2021

SHEET 1

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# Costs

## Outcome 1 - Grant Rejected

The Village would proceed with the road reconstruction and pathway installation at a cost of \$1,300,000 solely funded by Village taxpayers.

The Village applied for a **\$1.7M grant from the State of Wisconsin. The award or rejection of this grant will determine the final cost.**

## Outcome 2 - Grant Awarded

The project proceeds with federal grant money paying 80% and the Village paying \$340,000. The increased total project costs are due to requirements of federal grants.



# Why is this project important?

## Overdue reconstruction

Reconstruction of Gebhardt Road is a priority because it serves as an important east -west connector road for Village traffic.

Reconstruction will also redesign the Gebhardt - Highland intersection to improve safety.

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## Cost efficiency

The Village Pathway Ad Hoc Committee recommended a prioritized list of future pathway additions. Pathway additions that can be added as part of a necessary road improvement project receive higher ranking. Building a new pathway while the adjacent road is being rebuilt is cheaper than building the two projects separately.

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## Connectivity and access

This pathway will provide much needed connectivity to the existing Pilgrim Park Pathway and also to the Brookfield pathway system. Additionally, the pathway will provide easier and safer access to Pilgrim Park Middle School.



If the Village is awarded the grant from the State of Wisconsin, the project will be funded through existing taxes, meaning there will not be a need for a tax increase to complete this project.

# What does this mean for residents?



If the Village is not awarded the requested grant the Village would have to borrow funds to move the project forward on the current schedule. Borrowing money likely increases tax levy to pay for the new debt.



# If the referendum is not passed...

The Village will be forced to re-evaluate the project. The road reconstruction and new pathway construction could be divided into separate projects to stay under the referendum requirement or the less critical pathway could be removed from the project. Or, the entire proposed project could be postponed while new grant money is sought.