





Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager 

FROM: Lindsey Roland Nieratka, Chief Sustainability Officer 

FOR: Village President and Board of Trustees

DATE: April 15, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Electric Shuttle Feasibility Assessment

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Electric Shuttle Feasibility Assessment currently in progress.

Background

The Environment & Energy Commission's (EEC) 2024 and 2025 work plans include the Oak Park Electric Shuttle as a project. In 2024, the EEC drafted a survey for Engage Oak Park, which was open from October 3, 2024 through November 30, 2024, and received 187 responses. Most respondents (72.7%) indicated they were in favor of adding an electric shuttle service to the Village. Responses were split between preference for an app-based, on-demand shuttle (43.4%) and a fixed-route shuttle (56.6%), indicating the need for further assessment of the best model for the community.

At the March 11 Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a Professional Services Agreement with TYLin for the completion of an electric shuttle feasibility assessment in an amount not to exceed \$58,114. On March 21st, Village Staff and consultants met for an initial kickoff meeting to finalize the project schedule. A final report is anticipated to come before the Board in early Quarter 3.

Key stakeholder groups will be essential in the process of developing draft

recommendations. During the Community Input portion of the study, taking place from mid-April to late May, stakeholders will be engaged in two main ways:

1. **Stakeholder Interviews** will engage technical experts, Village staff, and local leaders to gather information around the feasibility of implementation, considerations of route planning, and historical context. Those interviews will be structured in five groups.
 - a. **Infrastructure, maintenance, and operations:** Public Works staff (Fleet, engineering, maintenance), ComEd, and the Illinois EPA.
 - b. **Accessibility:** Oak Park Township, Aging in Communities Commission, Disability Access Commission, and Public Health and DEI staff.
 - c. **Economic Vitality:** Representatives from the OPRF Chamber of Commerce and Business Districts.
 - d. **Community Partners:** School Districts (D97 and D200), Park District, and Library
 - e. **Transit Coordination:** CTA and PACE
2. **Focus Groups** will engage residents, business owners, employees, transit users, and community organizations to better understand the lived experience of the transit-reliant population, meaningful destinations, current barriers, and potential benefits of a new service. Two focus groups will be scheduled, and participants will be recruited through community partners, direct invitation, and social media outreach.

Next Steps

- Stakeholder interviews and focus groups will be scheduled in April and May 2025.
- Draft recommendations will be reviewed by Staff in May and June 2025.
- The final recommendation and report will be completed in late June and presented to the Board in July of 2025.

For questions, please contact Lindsey Roland Nieratka, Chief Sustainability Officer, via email at LNieratka@oak-park.us or by phone at 708.358.5785.

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
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All Department Directors
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