



# Public Meeting

City of Evanston **Public Works Agency**

City of Chicago **Department of Transportation**

## **Howard Street Corridor Improvement Project Public Meeting 1 Summary**

The City of Evanston Public Works Agency, in collaboration with the City of Chicago Department of Transportation, hosted the first public meeting for the Howard Street Corridor Improvement Project on Wednesday August 2, 2017. The meeting took place from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave, Evanston, IL 60202.

Eight members of the project team were present to review the project with attendees and receive input. These team members represented the City of Evanston, the Chicago Department of Transportation, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Sam Schwartz Engineering, Altamanu and Metro Strategies. Three aldermen from the wards encompassing the study area co-hosted the meeting and were present to speak with constituents. Approximately 53 corridor residents, business owners, and other stakeholders attended the meeting. When asked how the attendees heard about the meeting, the majority of responses were evenly split between the notification flyer, email, and aldermanic notices. A few other attendees heard about the meeting through work, their landlord or a community group.

### Project Team Attendance

Sat Nagar, City of Evanston, Public Works Agency  
Lara Biggs, City of Evanston, Public Works Agency  
Lubica Benak, Chicago Department of Transportation  
Mike Kerr, Christopher B. Burke Engineering  
Bobby Gunnells, Christopher B. Burke Engineering  
Jeff Househ, Christopher B. Burke Engineering  
Kelly Conolly, Sam Schwartz Engineering  
Phil Hutchison, Altamanu  
Lissa Domoracki, Metro Strategies  
Lilliane Webb, Metro Strategies

### Advisory Committee Attendance

Alderman Rainey, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Evanston  
Alderman Moore, 49<sup>th</sup> Ward Chicago  
Alderman Silverstein, 50<sup>th</sup> Ward Chicago  
Michael Land, 49<sup>th</sup> Ward Chicago  
Cynthia Ryan, Rogers Park Business Alliance  
Michael David, M&M Power King

Upon entering the room, meeting attendees were asked to sign in and were offered a project fact sheet and comment form. Attendees were then invited to review the project exhibit boards. Project team members were present to discuss the boards in greater detail and answer any questions.

Exhibit boards occupied one-half of the meeting room. The other half of the meeting room included rows of chairs (approximately 65) facing a screen. Food and beverages were available.

#### Exhibit Boards

Existing Traffic Volumes (2 boards)

Pedestrian Zone Analysis

Existing Pedestrian/Bicycle Volumes (2 boards)

Initial Alternatives Cross Sections

Aerial of existing conditions and proposed improvements for entire corridor (4 boards)

Attendees were then invited to the other section of the meeting room for a brief presentation. Lara Biggs, City of Evanston, welcomed the group and introduced Alderman Rainey, Evanston 8<sup>th</sup> Ward. Alderman Rainey also welcomed attendees and introduced the two aldermen from Chicago, Alderman Joe Moore, 49<sup>th</sup> Ward, and Alderman Silverstein, 50<sup>th</sup> Ward, who each provided remarks and emphasized the importance of this project and the public's input. Sat Nagar, City of Evanston, began the presentation by reviewing the project background, funding, goals and providing an overview of the Advisory Committee. Mike Kerr, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, then presented the existing conditions, typical sections of the initial alternatives, pedestrian improvements and streetscape improvements.

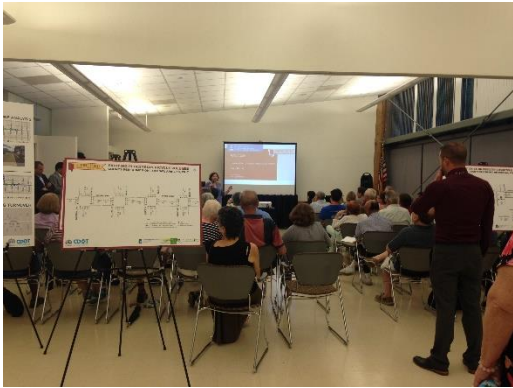
Following the presentation, a brief question and answer period took place. These questions are included below. Attendees were then invited to review the exhibit boards in more detail, provide input to project team members, and complete comment forms. Twenty attendees submitted comment forms at the meeting.

## Public Questions, Comments and Answers:

1. What signs will be added around pedestrian crosswalks? Does that include flashing lights?
  - *Standard signage will be added per the MUTCD. Flashing beacons will be evaluated once guidance on use is published.*
2. Can you describe “street furniture”? Will there be benches?
  - *These include trash cans, lights, and yes – benches.*
3. Will there be bus shelters?
  - *No, there will not be new bus shelters, unless CTA expresses an interest. They are evaluating all stop locations.*
4. Who will maintain planters and trees?
  - *The City of Evanston on the Evanston side and the City of Chicago on the Chicago side.*
5. Are lights designed to preserve dark sky as much as possible?
  - *The City of Evanston is currently completing a light study separately. It is a consideration.*
6. Is there anything you can do about the individual in the wheelchair at Western?
  - *That is something the Police Department is handling.*
7. Who is representing the Fire and Police Department?
  - *We will pass on any comments to them.*
8. Will there be any drainage improvements?
  - *Yes, there is a geotechnical investigation happening now. Infiltration solutions will be investigated.*
9. Why are you reducing the lanes of traffic to one? It’s hard to get through that area right now.
  - *Cars tend to speed in that area, and there is one lane to the west and east. So removing a lane would make the one lane continuous.*
10. (Follow up to #10) That lane is also a right turn lane for McDonald’s and other businesses, so drivers are also speeding around others to turn.
  - *We are leaving the existing condition as an alternative. So please tell us if that is what you want.*
11. Howard is the go-to street to get from the eastern side of Evanston/Rogers Park to McCormick. Other streets like Touhy are very slow, so I request for Howard lanes not to be further restricted.
  - *We will look at the travel time with the elimination of the lane and share the results at our next meeting.*
12. If Howard is so attractive that it increases traffic, I would vote for reducing a lane to make it less appealing. The traffic would then be deterred from Howard. Who will decide if the travel time from losing a lane is acceptable?
  - *It will be brought back to the Advisory Committee and the public.*
13. Is there a plan for more garbage cans? People waiting for and getting off of buses leave a lot of trash on the street.
  - *Garbage cans can be street furniture additions (additional note to reach out to alderman for new garbage cans).*
14. I take the 201 bus a lot and the St. Francis bus stop is no longer at the St. Francis entrance. The bus still stops at the old entrance. There are many disabled people who need to access St. Francis and the bus stop should be at the actual corner of the entrance.
  - *That is great feedback, and there is a representative here from CTA tonight.*

15. Does anyone know how much bike lanes are being used? I think bike usage is far less than anticipated.
  - *CDOT has some of those counts, and we can look into that.*
16. Are the locations of Divvy stations factored into the design?
  - *Yes, the current locations are being factored in, and CDOT has ridership data to determine how many stations are needed. Divvy stations also encourage biking, and we want people to be encouraged to ride in safe areas. Therefore the final plans may influence Divvy station placement.*
17. Is Phase 1 100% funded? How much will be from Evanston?
  - *Yes, Phase I is fully funded and is about \$300,000 from Evanston. For Phase I and II, local contribution is 30% and approximately \$90,000 each.*
18. Should we be paying for this when there are other priorities in the ward?
  - *(Alderman note) This is not from the Alderman's infrastructure budget.*
19. What is the total cost of the project?
  - *We have a rough estimate but do not have the final cost.*
20. Has there been any publicity to notify the public this is being considered prior to spending money for the study?
  - *(Alderman note) This has been publicized for a few months.*
21. With financial problems of city, is the project necessary?
  - *(Alderman note) This is our only opportunity. Infrastructure becomes more costly the further deteriorated it gets. The council voted unanimously to move forward with this project.*
22. There will be thousands of rats if the Burger King building is torn down.
23. The bike lanes at Dodge/Howard, with dashed lanes, creates confusion on where cars should be driving and turning. Can there be signs?
  - *We will talk to the City sign representatives.*

Meeting Photos







# Public Meeting

City of Evanston Public Works Agency  
City of Chicago Department of Transportation

The City of Evanston and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) welcomes you to this Public Meeting concerning the proposed improvements to **HOWARD STREET** from Hartrey Avenue/Sacramento Avenue to Callan Avenue/Winchester Avenue.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Improve pedestrian mobility, safety and access
- Review corridor with regards to complete streets policy
- Improve transit operations and infrastructure
- Improve intersection safety and operations by upgrading and interconnecting traffic signals
- Improve vehicle mobility through corridor
- Upgrade utilities along corridor
- Incorporate streetscape elements, such as sidewalk improvements, street furniture, trees and lighting



A Howard Street Corridor Improvement Plan will be developed as part of the Phase I portion of this project. The public will have opportunities to provide input throughout 2017, as outlined:

|                       |   |                       |   |                       |              |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>2017 - PHASE 1</b> | Public and Stakeholder Outreach, Analysis and Concept Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory Committee Meeting #1</li> <li>• Advisory Committee Meeting #2</li> <li>• Public Meetings</li> <li>• Advisory Committee Meeting #3</li> </ul> | <b>2018 - PHASE 2</b> | Completion of Construction Plans, Specifications and Cost Estimates | <b>2019 - PHASE 3</b> | Construction |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|

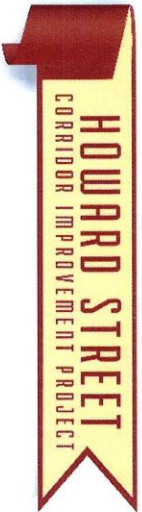


## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Written questions and comments may be submitted during or after this Public Meeting: **Mr. Sat Nagat, PE**, Senior Project Manager at 847.448.4311 or [snagat@cityofevanston.org](mailto:snagat@cityofevanston.org)







# Sign In Sheet

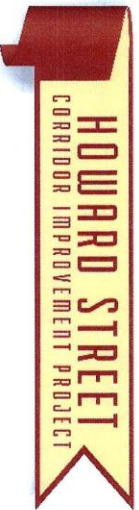
Public Meeting

August 2, 2017 - Levy Senior Center



| Name<br>(Please Print) | Street Address or<br>Community Organization | Email Address                             | How did you hear about<br>this meeting? |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| CYNTHIA MATIAS         | 1723 HOWARD ST                              | cynthia.matias@cdmnet                     | ALDOR MCM                               |
| DAN JOSEPH             | 1510 GREENWOOD                              | HOLYMOOSE563@comcast.net                  | BADIN INC                               |
| SANDY FEIGE            | ROOSEVELT BUS AVENUE                        | SFEIGE@RPSA.ORG                           | 49TH WARD                               |
| LORETTA DOSTA          | 2450 URBAN THEATRE                          | ld1446@chicagotrib.com                    | email                                   |
| Joe Simon Pastorek     | 7351 N. Hoyne                               | Pastorek@att.net                          | e-mail                                  |
| Rika Soeder            | 1328 Dobson                                 | <del>soeder</del> rika.soeder@comcast.net | Flyer                                   |
| JANET CREWIS           | 1110 Dobson                                 | janete87@earthlink.net                    | Flyer                                   |
| Fred Wittenberg        | 1726 S. Blvd,                               | envimech@ameritech.net                    | email                                   |
| John Slagle            | 7442 N. Clewmont 3                          | JohnSlagle84@gmail.com                    | Flyer                                   |
| Gunn Van Hecke         | 1126 Dobson                                 | gunn.vanhecke@gmail.com                   | google groups                           |
| Dick Lanyon            | 1019 Mulford                                | dicklanyon@sbcglobal.net                  | 49th ward notice                        |
| Sean Allen             | 1635 Dobson                                 | Allen.Greg@sbcthanet.com                  |   |
| Greg Allen             | 1035 Dobson                                 | Allen.Greg@sbcglobal.net                  |   |
| Clara Kukulkiwicz      | 1106 Brimmel St                             | cl.kukulkiwicz@att.net                    | ALDOR                                   |
| AL Goldberg            | 606 Mulford                                 | algoldberg@mac.com                        | e-mail                                  |
| MARIA WOLF             | 101 Dewey                                   | maria.wolf@comcast.net                    | landlord                                |
| FRAN                   | 1030 EVERETT                                | franciscotw@comcast.net                   | email                                   |





# Sign In Sheet

Public Meeting

August 2, 2017 - Levy Senior Center



| Name<br>(Please Print) | Street Address or<br>Community Organization | Email Address                | How did you hear about<br>this meeting? |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| Walt Carrington        | 1215 Dobs                                   |                              | above                                   |
| RACHEL FOWLER          | 305 ASHLAND                                 |                              |   |
| EVELYN DICER           | 1723 HOWARD ST.                             | Evelyn.dicaz@caalm.net       | Alderman Pawley.                        |
| Valerie Haas           | 1204 Harvard Ten                            | valerie@sbglol.net - An Rees |   |
| Kathlynn Myers         | 7345 N. Ridge                               | k5m5941us@gmail.com          | Flyer for Hoare                         |
| Benita Doffey, Isis    | 7430 N. Ridge Ave.                          | bcoffey @ sbglol.net         | flyer                                   |
| LUISA BARR             | COOR  | luisa.barr@cityofchicago.org |   |
| Michael Daurd          | 1201 Hennepin St 4                          | PoweringTheCity@gmail.com    | Neer & Board                            |
| CONNIE USELMAN         | 148 CLYDE IE                                | cluselman@att.net            | 8th Ward MSQ Board                      |
| Molly O'Brien          | 1020 Brunswick                              | mk-boardman@yahoo.com        | neighborhood email list                 |
| Lois Holmes            | 100 Dobson                                  | l-holmes@northwestern.edu    | Flyer                                   |
| RIS TOWNSEND           | 1316 W. FRAGO                               |                              |   |
| John Geiss             | 2311 W. BIRKENWOOD                          |                              | Flyer                                   |
| Dan Ukul Henkelom      | 1125 DOBSON, SU                             | dandantenterprise@sbglol.net | Flyer                                   |
| Math Simowitz          | Georgetown Road Table                       | mathsimowitz@gmail.com       | Flyer                                   |
| KAREN ALLEN            | 4974 WAND                                   | KAR A. ALLEN@SBGLOL.COM      | 4974 WAND                               |
| RONALD WATSON          | 116 RIDGE                                   | MRWATSON@ATT.NET             |   |







