

Summary of Community Context Audit

Purpose: To understand the project area and define the study area issues.

- 18 Forms Completed by the Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Forms are Posted on the Project Website
- The Community Context Audit Form Sections are:
 1. Community Characteristics/Land Use
 2. Infrastructure Assessment
 3. Neighborhood Culture, Aesthetics and Street Amenities
 4. Economic Development
 5. Community Planning



Section 1 – Community Characteristics



The information below was developed with the Community Advisory Group (CAG)

- There are Four Established Communities
- Multimodal Transportation is Present
- Residential Centers are Present
- Willow Road is an Important Route for the Area
 - Willow Road is located in the middle of Northfield
- Land Use Features Include:
 - Residential
 - Cultural
 - Social and Community areas
- Flooding Issues Should be Addressed



Section 2 – Infrastructure Assessment



The information below was developed with the CAG

- **Existing Sidewalks Require:**
 - Improved ADA compliance
 - Improved street crossings & crosswalks
 - Gaps to be filled in for continuous sidewalks
 - Improved visibility at the I-94 Interchange
- **School Bus Service is Not Provided**
 - There are school children that live south of Willow Road who attend the schools & parks north of Willow Road
- **There are no School Speed Limit Zones**
- **Signalized Intersections**
 - Do not have pedestrian countdowns
 - Should be better coordinated
 - Should have longer left turn lanes



Section 3 – Neighborhood Culture



The information below was developed with the CAG

- **Address Community and Traffic Safety Concerns**
 - Regarded as an important aspect of the neighborhood culture
 - Safe pedestrian crossings should be provided
 - The feedback was similar to that in Section 2
- **Neighborhood Parks, Open Spaces, Civic Areas are Considered Highly Important Features**
 - Many seasonal events are held at these facilities
- **Include Street Trees & Landscaping**
 - Streetscaping enhancements were regarded with a medium to high importance



Section 4 – Economic Development



The information below was developed with the CAG

- This Section had the Most Variability in Responses
- There is a General Agreement that New Development is Planned along Willow Road
 - The level of importance is split between High and Low
 - Many noted that redevelopment would not increase traffic
- Willow Road is both a Commuter Corridor and Community Gateway



Section 5 – Community Planning



The information below was developed with the CAG

- **All Four Villages have Comprehensive Plans**
 - Northbrook is updating their plan
 - Northfield completed the *Village Center Study* in 2008
- **There were Two Recently Completed Special Studies Associated with Willow Road:**
 - The Lakota Study
 - The 3-Lane Improvement Plans
- **Willow Road has an SRA Designation**
 - Willow Road has regional significance, influence, and impact
 - Willow Road improvements are a local concern
- **There are Several Scheduled & Planned Projects Adjacent to the Project Area:**
 - Winnetka – Willow Road Phase 1 Study
 - Glenview – Waukegan Road Medians
 - IDOT – Waukegan Road Resurfacing