

Willow Road Public Meeting #1

Community Context Audit Summary

Introduction

Community Context Audit (CCA) forms were completed by the Community Advisory Group (CAG) members. The forms are available for viewing on the project website.

The purpose of the CCA is to help define the Purpose and Need of the project improvements based upon community goals and local plans for future development. The audit was designed to take into account the community's history or heritage, present conditions and anticipated conditions. It considered

factors such as mobility and access (vehicular, non-vehicular and transit), safety, local and regional economics, aesthetics and quality of life.

The results of the responses were reviewed and focused on the items which had a high or medium importance level to the CAG members. If the general opinion was that the feature had low importance or was not applicable, it was not considered as critical to the development of the project's Purpose and Need. However, all comments will be considered in the development of project alternatives.

Section 1: Community Characteristics/ Land Use

- There are four established communities
- Multi-modal transportation exists in the study area
- There are established residential center
- It is an important route for the area
 - Willow Road is located in the middle of Northfield
- Land use features include:
 - Residential
 - Cultural (churches)
 - Social/Community
 - ❖ Schools
 - ❖ Parks
 - ❖ Senior Center
 - ❖ Community Center
- Flooding issues should be addressed
 - Drainage
 - Stormwater management



Section 2: Infrastructure Assessment

- Existing sidewalk system requires:
 - Better 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 in Northfield
 - 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
 - There are no lighted crosswalks
 - There are no median refuge areas
- Signalized intersections should be better coordinated
 - There are no pedestrian countdowns
 - Left turn lanes should be longer



(over please)

Section 3: Neighborhood Culture, Aesthetics and Street Amenities

- Address community and traffic safety concerns
 - Improve the pedestrian crossings
- Neighborhood parks, open spaces, civic areas are considered highly important features
- There are many seasonal events held at these facilities:
 - July 4th Parade
 - School Fair
 - Northfield Rocks
 - Campout Night
 - Ribfest
- Street trees and landscaping should be included



Section 4: Economic Development

- This section had the most variability in responses
- Redevelopment is planned along Willow Road
 - The level of importance among the CAG members was split
 - Many noted that redevelopment would not increase traffic
- Willow road is a commuter corridor
- Willow road is a community gateway

Section 5: Community Planning

- All communities have comprehensive plans
 - Northbrook is updating their plan
 - Northfield completed the *Village Center Study* in 2008
- Recently completed special studies include:
 - The Lakota Study
 - The 3-lane Improvement Plans
- Willow Road extends from Illinois Route 62 in Inverness (as Palatine Road) to Sheridan Road in Winnetka
- Willow Road has an SRA designation
 - The segment between Quentin Road in Palatine and I-94 in Northfield is the portion designated as an SRA route
- Roadway network planning
 - Willow Road has regional significance
 - ❖ Providing interchanges at I-294 with Lake Street and Dundee Road could provide an opportunity to solve the regional issues
 - Willow Road is a local concern
 - ❖ The other roads in the area have slow-downs and back-ups during rush hours
 - ❖ Back-ups and congestion on Willow Road are causing traffic to divert to adjacent roads
- There are several scheduled and planned projects adjacent to the project area:
 - Willow Road Phase I Study: Provident Avenue to the West Village Limit, by the Village of Winnetka
 - Installation of landscaped medians on Waukegan Road south of Willow Road, by the Village of Glenview
 - Waukegan Road Resurfacing (2010): Willow Road to Golf Road, by IDOT