

Executive Summary

The community expressed an overall desire to reduce the difference in streetscape appearance and investment between the north and south sides of the corridor.

Top 5 Takeaways from Public Meeting #1 (Cottage Grove to Blackstone)

- 1. Pedestrian Safety – The community shared concerns about the safety of pedestrians due to fast-moving traffic.** To enhance the pedestrian experience, the community suggested an increase in the number and visibility of crosswalks and the addition of countdown timers for signal lights. To slow down the speed of traffic, the idea of bump outs was well-received, but the addition of stop signs received mixed reviews.
- 2. Infrastructure Elements / Transit Accommodations – The community expressed interest in more investment into the infrastructure of the corridor, especially on the south side of the street.** The community expressed a desire to see a wider sidewalk on the south side of the street, an increase in roadway and pedestrian lighting, and better draining systems for storm water. There were mixed reviews on adding bike lanes and increasing bus stops/shelters along 61st.
- 3. Aesthetics – The community expressed a desire to add more greenery to make the south side of 61st street appear more welcoming and more symmetrical to the north side of the 61st street.** Some ideas included trees, tall grasses, and planters hanging from light posts. The community expressed a need for more trash cans. The trash cans could be decorative or include community identifiers to improve the aesthetic.
- 4. Community Identity / Placemaking – The community stated a desire to blend the dividing lines between the north and south sides of 61st street (i.e., between the University of Chicago and the community).** One key aspect of creating a stronger sense of community centers on making the north and south sides more cohesive and permeable. Other placemaking efforts should be thoughtfully incorporated into the neighborhood (e.g., community identifiers added to light posts).
- 5. Other – Some other key areas of concern for the community were the changes in traffic flow when construction begins on planned developments and the availability of parking once the developments are completed.** In addition to how the planned developments will affect daily life, poor visibility pulling out of alleyways and an interest in expanding the project limits for the 61st Street Master Plan were also stated.