

Fullerton Avenue Streetscape Improvement FAQ**1. What is the Improvement?**

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is working together with the office of Alderman Reboyras (30th Ward) and Alderman Villegas (36th Ward) to improve Fullerton Avenue from Narragansett Avenue to Lockwood Avenue. The goals of these improvements are to repair and upgrade deteriorated infrastructure and to improve the walkability of the corridor by enhancing pedestrian safety and mobility.

2. When will work start and how long will it take?

Construction is anticipated to start Spring 2021 and be substantially complete Winter 2022. The project will be completed in phases and will be closely coordinated with adjacent property owners.

3. How is the project funded?

The project is funded with a mix of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds from the Diversey/Narragansett and Belmont/Central TIF Districts and the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways funding for costs related to roadway pavement patching and resurfacing.

4. How will the Alderman's office be involved?

Alderman Reboyras, 30th Ward (north side of Fullerton) and Alderman Villegas, 36th Ward (south side of Fullerton) have both recommended that Fullerton Avenue receive the needed funding to implement the infrastructure repairs and safety improvements shown in the plans. In addition, they are involved in the community outreach to the businesses and residences.

5. What is Vision Zero Chicago and why is it associated with this project?

Vision Zero Chicago is a set of policies and goals that have been established to eliminate death and serious injury from traffic-related crashes citywide. All roadway improvements throughout the city are designed to reduce traffic crashes, with the principle that any life lost in a crash is unacceptable. A section of this project overlaps with the Fullerton Avenue "Neighborhood High Crash Corridor" identified in the June 2017 Vision Zero Chicago Action Plan, which indicates a disproportionately high rate of severe crashes along Fullerton from Meade to California.

6. What is being done to make Fullerton Avenue safer for pedestrians?

Pedestrian safety improvements are being designed using Vision Zero and Complete Streets guidelines. The improvements will balance the safety and operations along Fullerton Avenue for all types of transportation including driving, riding transit, and walking. These improvements include installing new pedestrian refuge islands on Fullerton Avenue, new curb extensions (or “bump-outs”) on side streets, and high visibility crosswalk markings to meet today’s standards for pedestrian safety and visibility.

7. Will the pedestrian safety improvements make Fullerton Avenue worse for cars?

Four lanes of traffic will be maintained on Fullerton Avenue before and after the safety improvements. Travel times for cars driving along Fullerton will not change as a result of the safety improvements.

8. Will the pavement be repaired?

The pavement will be patched and resurfaced. Potholes and bad sections of pavement will be cut out and replaced with new pavement. The top 4 ½ inches of pavement will be removed and two new layers of asphalt will be placed from curb to curb.

9. How will pavement flooding be addressed?

Pavement flooding will be addressed in various ways. The existing rainwater inlets and sewer pipes will be cleaned. New inlets will be installed as needed and broken/settled sections of curb and gutter will be replaced. The pavement will be resurfaced to direct runoff towards the curb and gutter.

10. Are street lighting improvements included in the project?

The street lighting improvements include replacing the outdated poles with new arterial street light poles with LED lights. The existing aerial wires will be removed and underground conduit between the light poles will be installed.

11. Will the sidewalk in front of my home/business be reconstructed? Will my driveway be reconstructed?

Areas of sidewalk, driveway, and curb replacement are based on an existing condition assessment made over multiple field visits in Summer 2019. To see if you are impacted, the areas of proposed sidewalk, driveway, and curb replacement are shown on the Overall Improvement Exhibit <http://tinyurl.com/FullertonAvenue>.

In general, all driveways will remain open during construction. Temporary stone will be placed to maintain access. The driveways will be closed for a few days during construction to place the new concrete for the driveway. This will be closely coordinated during construction and will be kept to a minimum.

12. Will any parking spaces be eliminated or affected as part of this project? Where?

Parking removal is required around two of the new pedestrian refuge islands. A total of 13 (3.7%) parking spaces will be removed in order to provide the needed safety improvements. Parking loss associated with new pedestrian refuge islands has been minimized. Where it is more feasible Fullerton has been widened instead of removing parking. Also, pavement striping will be placed along Fullerton Avenue to show both parking areas and “no parking zones” based on existing parking regulations. The “no parking zones” are near intersections to show the corner clearances; at driveways and crosswalks; and at bus stops. Currently, these areas are being improperly used for parking and are causing sight distance problems. The number of existing and future available parking spaces on each block are labeled on the Overall Improvement Exhibit <http://tinyurl.com/FullertonAvenue>.

13. Why aren't bike lanes being installed on Fullerton Avenue?

Fullerton Avenue is a four lane arterial roadway that carries a high volume of east-west vehicular traffic making it an undesirable option in the Chicago street grid for bikes. The City is currently performing a study that is looking into implementing an inclusive, low-stress bike network throughout the Belmont Cragin neighborhood.

14. Has there been coordination with the Belmont-Cragin Elementary School planned to be built in Riis Park?

Yes, CDOT has held coordination meetings with the CPS site development team for the new Belmont-Cragin Elementary School. The improvements will be designed and scheduled to avoid conflicts and overlapping work between the school and street projects.

15. How can the public be involved during construction?

A flyer will be distributed prior to the start of construction that has information about the weekly Construction Review Meetings. The public is encouraged to be involved in these meetings to voice any concerns or questions as construction progresses.

16. How will the project impact daily activities?

Throughout construction, Fullerton Avenue will remain open to motorists and pedestrians and access to businesses will be maintained. In order to keep the street open to traffic, parking will not be allowed in the area of active construction. In addition, there will be periodic parking restrictions on some side streets.

17. Will CTA service be affected?

The #74 bus will maintain its normal schedule. A few bus stops will be relocated to the other side of the intersection as part of the improvement. This will improve bus service and improve the flow of traffic through the intersection.