

ISW AUSTIN Chicago Avenue Corridor Improvements

PUBLIC MEETING #1

August 24, 2021



WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

We appreciate **YOU** taking the time to join us!

Thank you for joining us as we discuss the [Chicago Avenue corridor Improvement project](#) from Austin Boulevard to Cicero Avenue.

The [project](#) aims to revitalize the [Chicago Avenue corridor](#) and is a key element of the [INVEST South/West](#) initiative which is a groundbreaking effort to coordinate investment on the City's South and West Sides.

We need [your](#) feedback today to [help advance the design](#).



We don't want to **miss** anything!

Please be aware that this presentation will be **recorded** for note taking and record keeping purposes

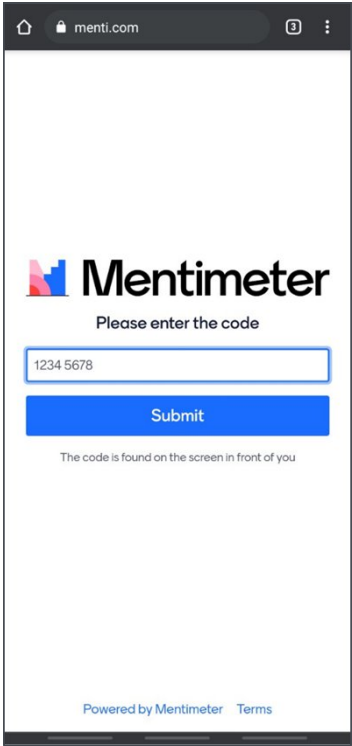
Participation in this presentation acknowledges **consent** of this notification

Everyone working together!



- 01 All attendees will be **MUTED**.
- 02 Please use the **Q&A FUNCTION** to submit questions to be answered during the designated question and answer session.
- 03 All questions and ideas are valid
- 04 All comments received will be recorded and will be part of the meeting record.
- 05 Respect all other participant opinions and perspectives.
- 06 Use the **CHAT** function if you need assistance.

- 01** Go to Menti.com
- 02** Enter 87 08 04 2
- 03** Answer questions
- 04** See Results



- 01** Introductions
- 02** Project Overview
- 03** Project Schedule
- 04** Streetscape Components
- 05** What We've Heard
- 06** Existing Conditions
- 07** Opportunities
- 08** Next Steps + Q&A

Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)

- Lubka Benak, *Program Director*
- Wade Van Nortwick, *Project Manager*

29th Ward

- Alderman Taliaferro

37th Ward

- Alderman Mitts

Civiltech

- Mike Folkening

Lamar Johnson Collaborative

- Lesley Roth

Territory NFP (Austin Studio)

Youth Engagement

Alt_ (Austin Based)

Project Artist, Urban Design Support

OSEH (MBE)

Traffic Data Collection

Wang Engineering (MBE)

Geotechnical Engineering

EDI (MBE)

Topographic Survey

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Supports the Invest South/West initiative to re-activate neighborhood cores that have historically served as focal points for pedestrian activity, shopping, services, transportation, public spaces and quality-of life amenities for residents.

Part of Chicago Works: Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's five-year capital plan that will Invest in Communities Through Infrastructure.

Streetcapes consist of infrastructure, pedestrian safety, and placemaking improvements with the goal of creating unified, safe, walkable, and attractive street. The streetscape projects are comprehensive and include public right-of-way improvements from building face to building face.

The Project Includes:

- Public Outreach
- Placemaking and urban design strategy
- Concept design & engineering
- Detailed design & engineering
- Construction of the corridor



PURPOSE AND SCOPE



PROJECT OVERVIEW

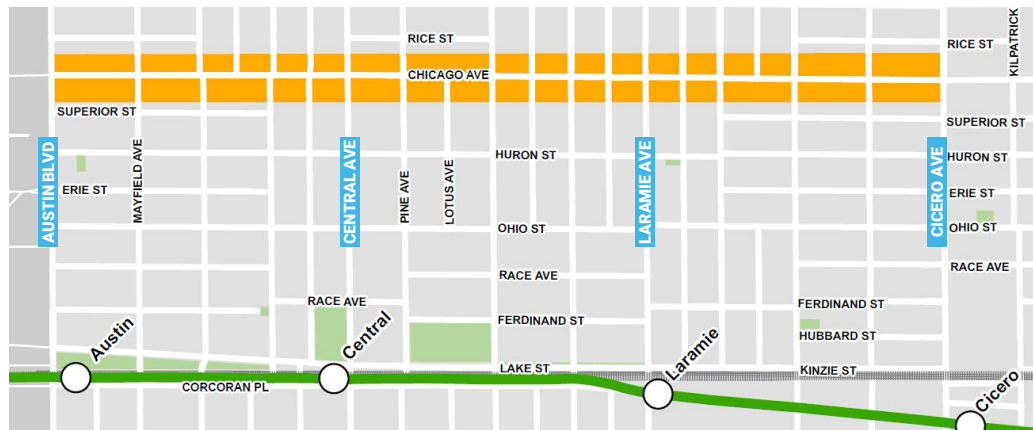
Chicago Avenue from Austin Boulevard to Cicero Avenue Alderman Taliaferro, Ward 29 / Alderman Mitts, Ward 37

Proposed Improvements

- Roadway geometry and intersection improvements
- Full width resurfacing
- Drainage improvements
- Sidewalk, curb, and gutter
- Curb extensions
- ADA ramps and crosswalks
- Street lighting
- Traffic signal upgrades
- Improved pavement markings and signage
- Side street improvements to the alleys as needed
- Site furniture and potential seating areas
- Light pole identifiers
- Gateway identifier
- Tree planting and potential landscaping

Goals

- Build a safe, walkable, and attractive streets to foster community and economic growth.
- Support Invest South/West re-activation of neighborhood cores.
- Improve walkability and enhance pedestrian safety.
- Define and establish a brand, incorporating the Soul City Corridor identity.
- Reconfigure street to calm traffic, define parking and bike lanes.



LIMITS AND IMPROVEMENTS





Spring 2021

- Project Start-Up
- ISW Roundtable Meeting
- Existing Conditions Analysis

Summer 2021

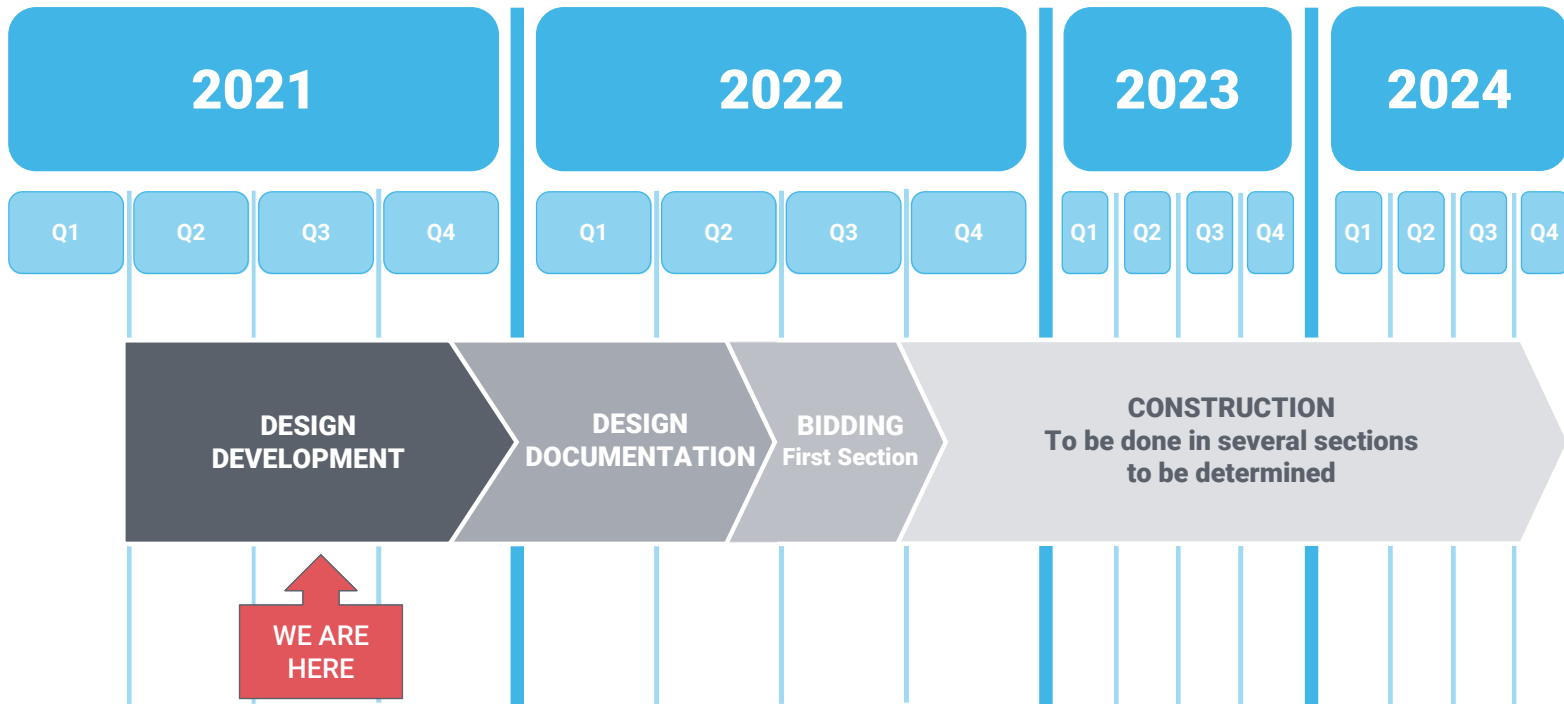
- Public Meeting #1
- Project Survey #1
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Preliminary Concepts

Fall/Winter 2021

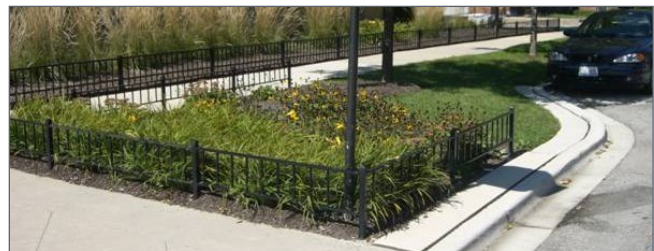
- ISW Roundtable Meeting
- Public Meeting #2
- Project Survey #2
- Preferred Concept

Winter 2021/Spring 2022

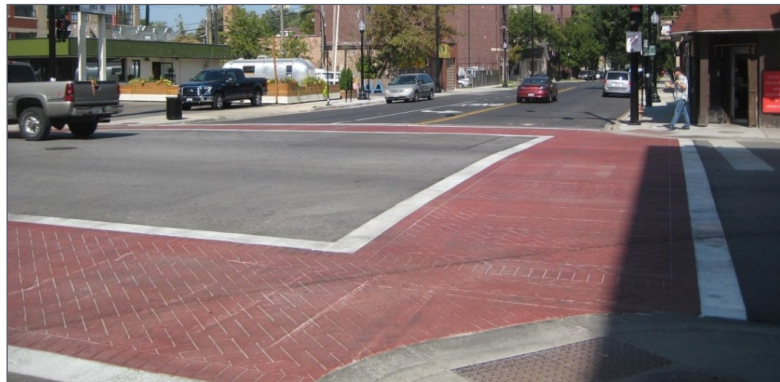
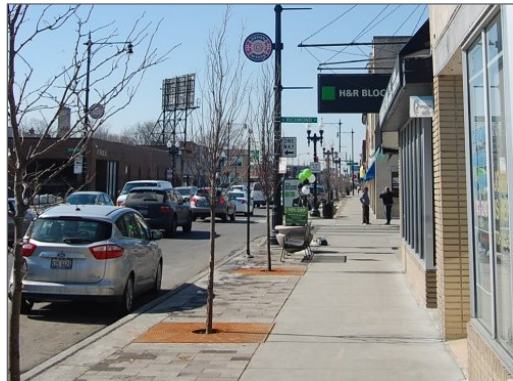
- ISW Roundtable Meeting
- Public Meeting #3











UPGRADED CROSSWALKS, PAVER PARKWAYS, TREES





BUFFERED BIKE LANE



PROTECTED BIKE LANE



PROTECTED BIKE LANE



BIKE LANE



SHARED BIKE LANE



INTERSECTION MARKINGS



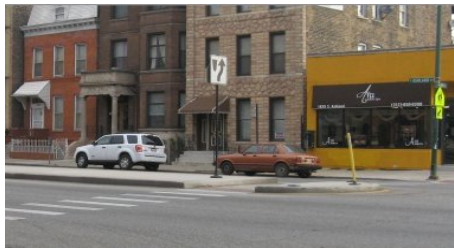
INTERNATIONAL
CROSSWALK



PEDESTRIAN
SIGNAGE



CURB RAMP



PEDESTRIAN REFUGE
ISLAND



PEDESTRIAN
COUNTDOWN TIMER



CURB EXTENSION



SCHOOL CROSSING
SIGNAGE

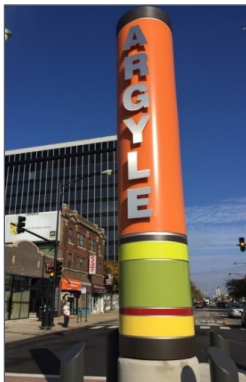


PROTECTED BIKE
LANE



DECORATIVE
INTERSECTION
PAVEMENT







ROADWAY LIGHTING



CHICAGO GATEWAY POLE



DAVITT POLE

PEDESTRIAN/SIDEWALK LIGHTING



DOUBLE ACORN



SINGLE ACORN

01 Soul City Corridor Development Framework

August 2020

02 Invest South/West Kick-off Summary & Next Steps; Austin

Spring 2020

03 Vision Zero Chicago; West Side Plan

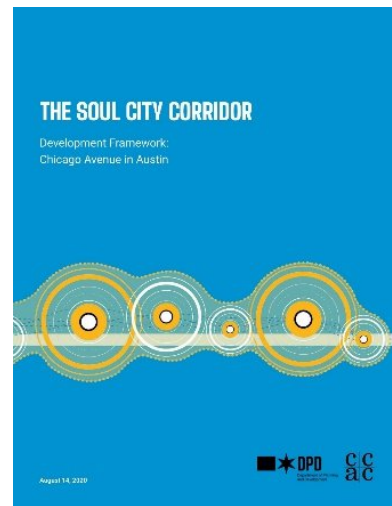
2019

04 Austin Forward. Together. QLP

2018

05 FHWA/ISP/IDOT Road Safety Assessment

June 2017



SAFE AND ACTIVE STREETS RECOMMENDATIONS



Streetscape



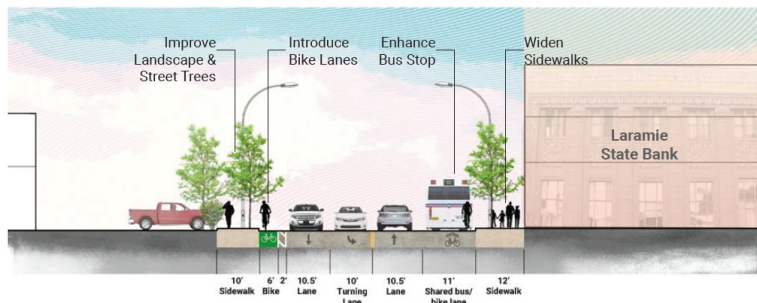
Plazas, Parklets, & Gathering



Street Reconfiguration



Bus Stop Amenities



Example of proposed street improvements at Laramie/Chicago



Intersection Activation



Pedestrian Crossing Safety



Access Management

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

WHY “SOUL CITY”?

Rooted in a distinct cultural identity of Black art, music, food, and entertainment, “Soul City” is a new identity for the Chicago Avenue Corridor that sets the tone and expectation for vibrancy and experience. It is a unifying theme for future economic development and supports existing business owners. Importantly, it recognizes the corridor as a gateway to Chicago. While the brand concept is a new idea, it has both historical roots on the West Side and celebrates the existing arts and culture scene in Austin.

The genesis of Soul City stems from local neighborhood leaders especially the Austin African American Business Networking Association, which started using the term in 2015 as a theme for creating an enclave for Black culture and economic development. Over the past five years, popularity of the term grew to other neighborhood organizations, faith-based organizations, and civic leaders as a unifying theme for the corridor. This plan recognizes the potential of Soul City as an economic and cultural driver for Chicago Avenue.



“We talked for years about how Chicago is known for its rich cultural enclaves like Greektown, Chinatown, and Boystown that are economic drivers. There should be a place in the city that functions as a cultural enclave for African Americans. Soul City is it.”

- Malcolm Crawford
Executive Director, Austin African American Business Networking Association

Image credits: Austin: Forward. Together Quality-of-Life Plan 2018

SOUL CITY CORRIDOR

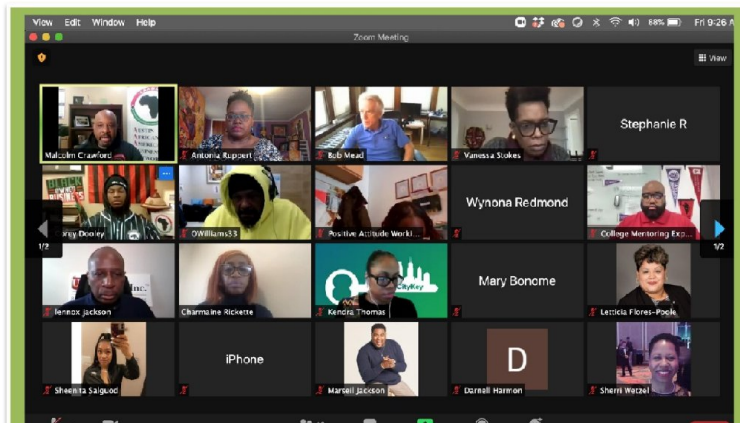


01 Consistent Look

02 Outdoor spaces

03 Signage

04 Art/Color



ISW AIR Public Engagement Plan

Austin

Respectfully Submitted by:

Antonia "Toni" Ruppert, AIR



TERRITORY

YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF DESIGN IN OUR COMMUNITIES



My favorite public spaces are...

My neighborhood needs...

TERRITORY

creative	crazy	soothing	evolving
relaxing	delicious	they move fast	inspirational
resting place	calming	fascinating	incredible
amusing	delicious		

more trash cans , so we can pick up trash when we see it.

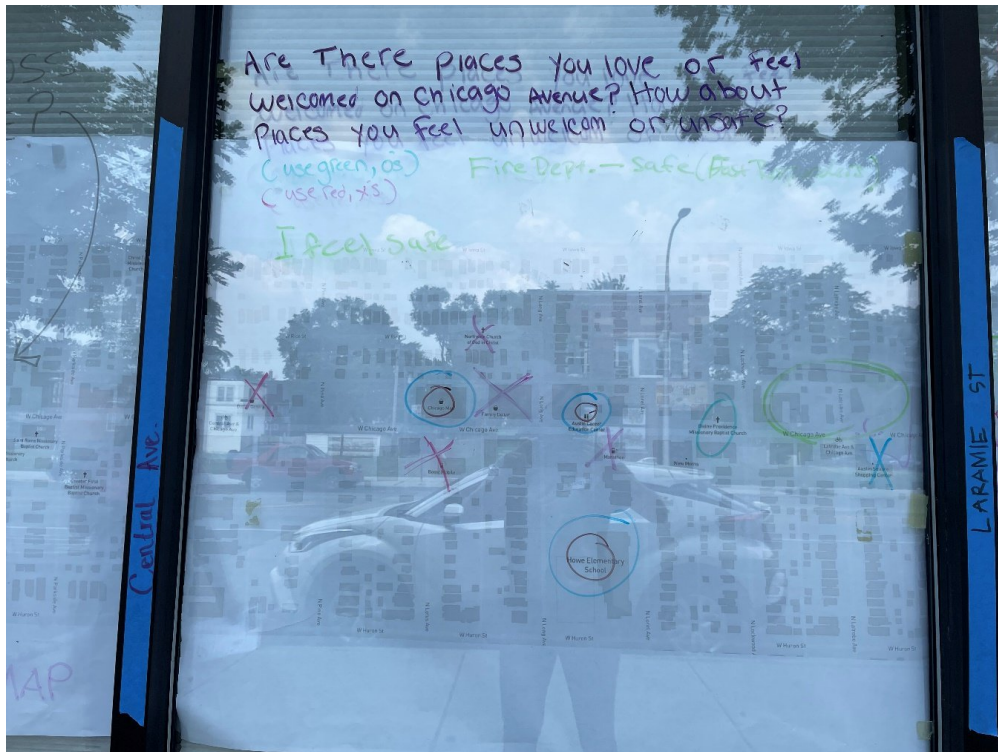
activities for teens and adults to participate in

access to fresh produce

paintings on train underpasses so walkers feel safer

sharing what we have potluck style

brighter, fresher, more colorful alleys



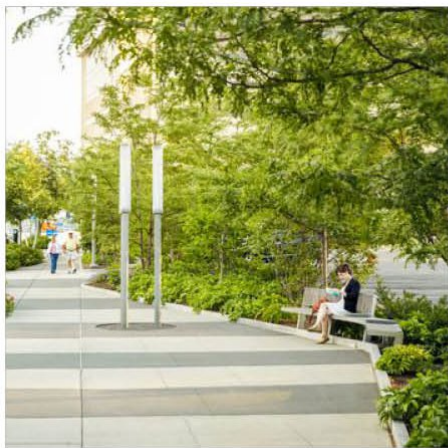
What do you want the corridor to be KNOWN for?

12 answers

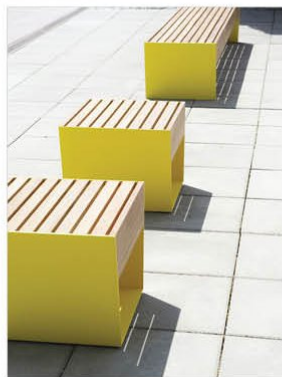


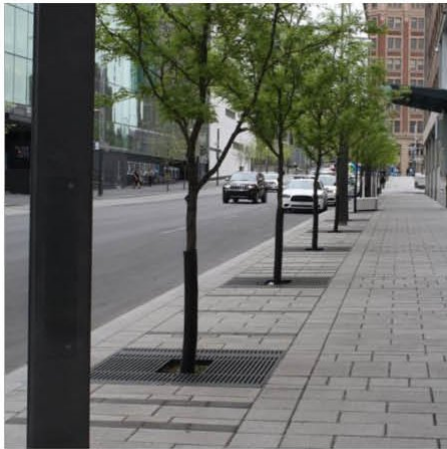
Shared presentation "Chicago Ave 1"

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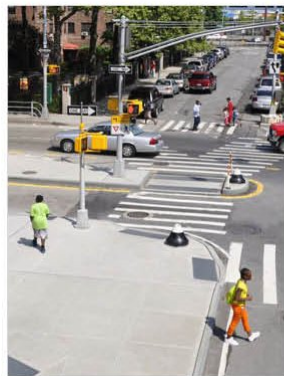
PLAYFUL
ACTIVE





TRADITIONAL / HISTORIC



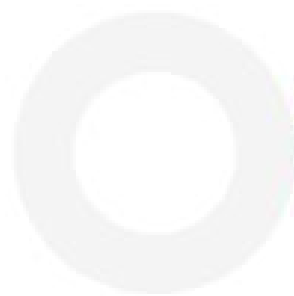


MODERN /
CONTEMPORARY



What should the Corridor Character be?

12/12/2016

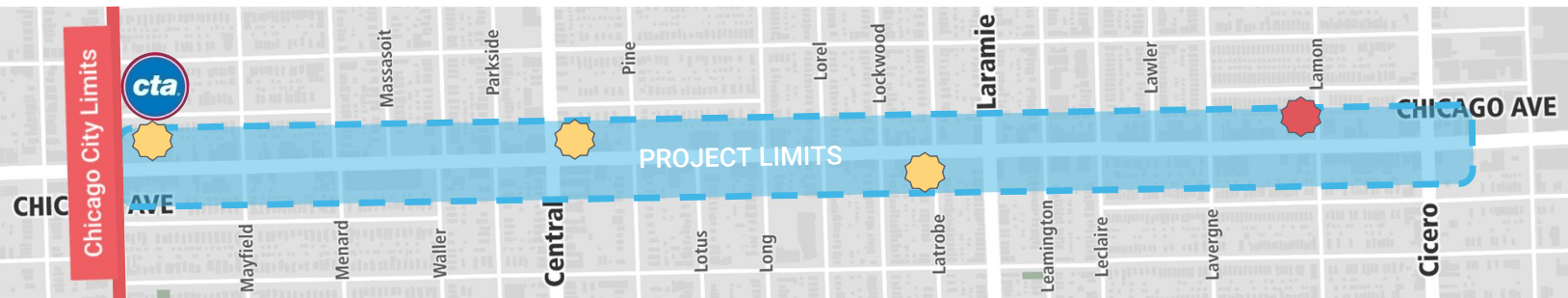


- Playful / Active
- Historic / Cultural
- Modern / Contemporary



Shared presentation "Chicago Ave 1"

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CTA Route #66

- Third highest ridership in entire CTA system
- More than 5,000 boardings and alightings within the project limits on a typical weekday
- Most people getting on and off at major intersections (Austin, Central, Laramie, Cicero)

 **DIY** Station

 Planned **DIY** Station



How much **use** and how **fast!**

Chicago Avenue averages about **10,000 to 15,000** vehicles per day, and traffic increases from west to east.

About **80%** of traffic drives at or below the **30 mph** speed limit.

13% drive less than 5 mph over the speed limit.

5% drive 5-10 mph over the speed limit.

2% drive more than 10 mph over the speed limit.

2014-2018 Crash Data

918 Crashes in 5 Years

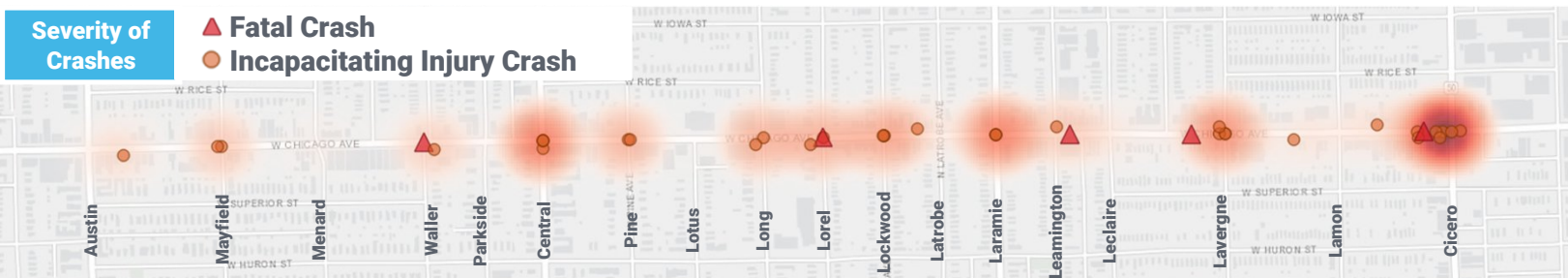
- 5 fatal crashes
- 231 crashes with injuries

Most Common Crash Types

- Rear end (26%)
- Turning (21%)
- Sideswipe (14%)

Severity of Crashes

- ▲ Fatal Crash
- Incapacitating Injury Crash



Pedestrian & Bike Crashes

- Pedestrian Crash
- Bicycle Crash

Pedestrian and Bike crashes make up 7% of total crashes, but make up 27% of crashes with injuries or fatalities

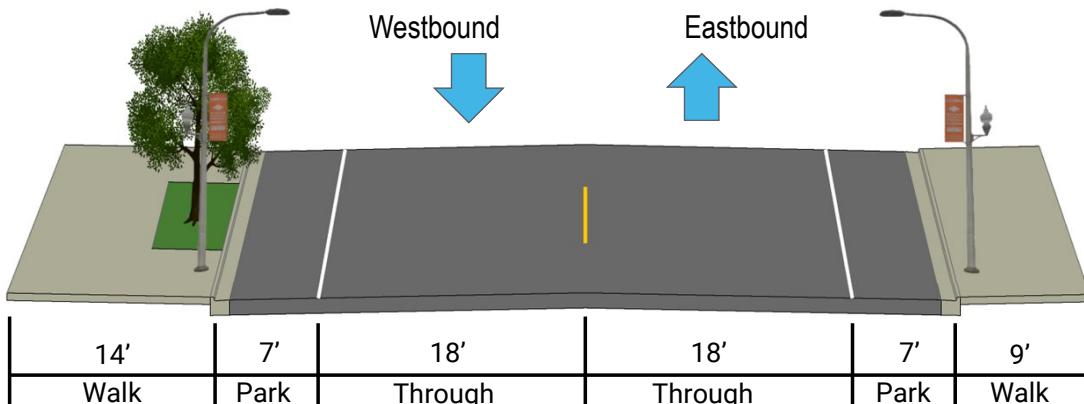




Legend

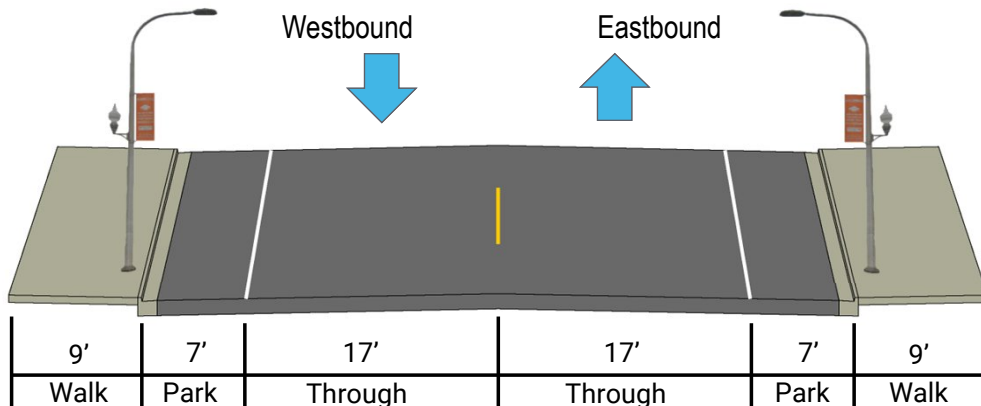
- Chicago Avenue HSIP Improvements (2022)
- CTA/CDOT COVID Relief Pop-Up Bus Lanes (2020)
- INVEST South/West (2020)
- Vision Zero (2018)
- Safe Routes to Schools (2016)

- Pedestrian Refuge Median
- Bump Outs
- Paint and Post Bump Outs
- Traffic Signal



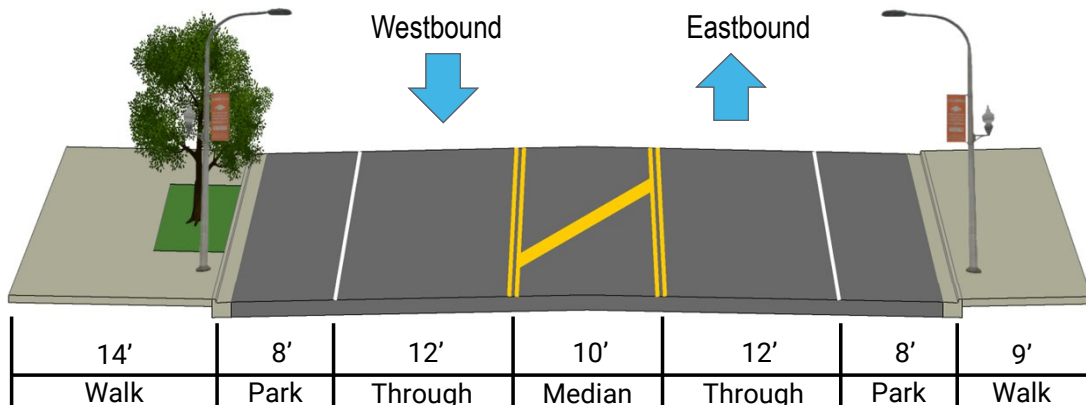
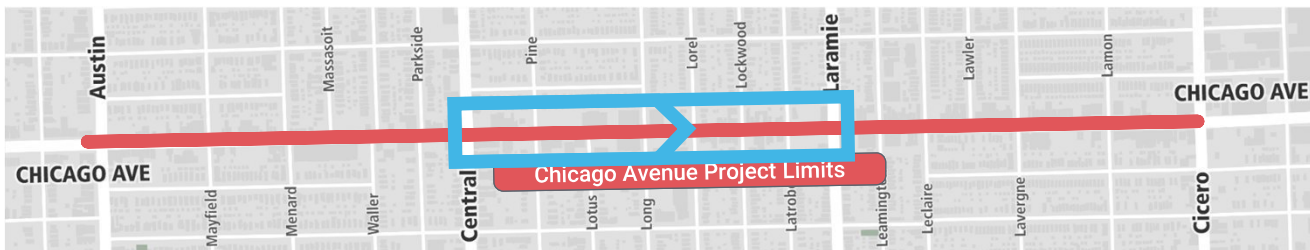
Austin Blvd to Menard Ave
(Looking East)

73' ROW



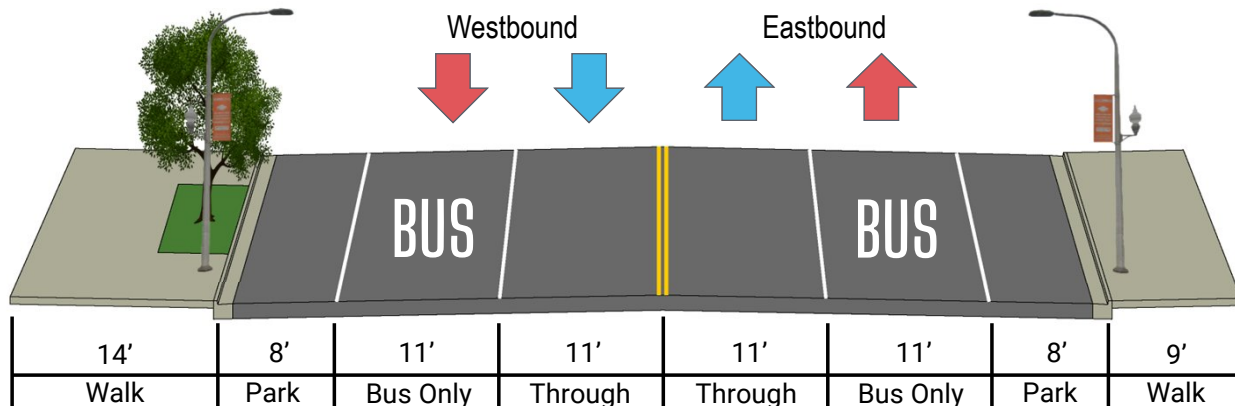
Menard Ave to Central Ave
(Looking East)

66' ROW



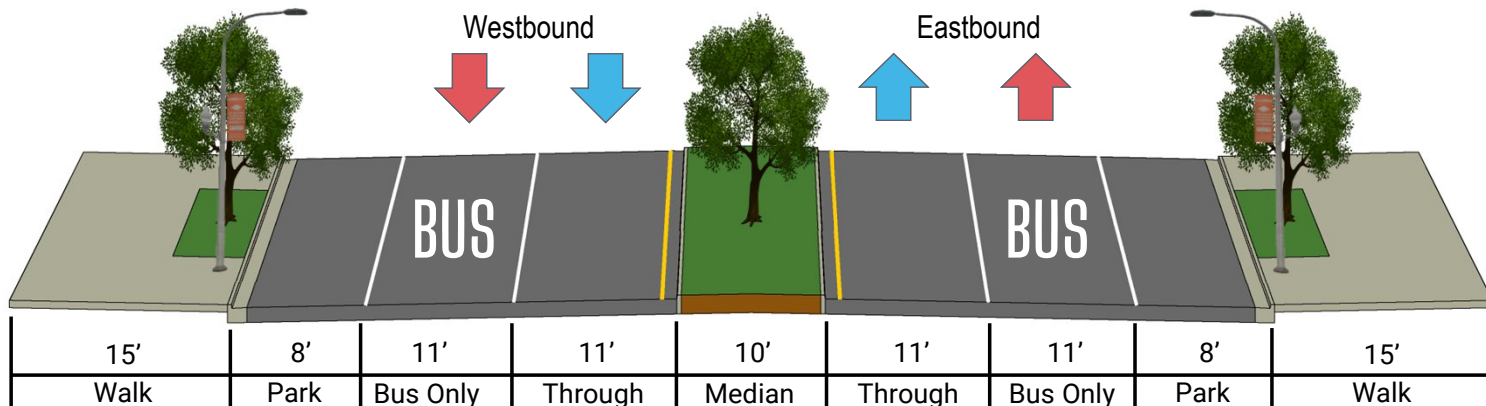
Central Ave to Laramie Ave
(Looking East)

73' ROW



Laramie Ave to LeClaire Ave
(Looking East)

83' ROW



Leclaire Ave to Cicero Ave
(Looking East)

100' ROW

What roadway features would you like prioritized?

- 1st | Wider Sidewalks
- 2nd | On-Street Parking
- 3rd | Median Space (left turn lanes, refuge islands)
- 4th | More Trees/Landscaping
- 5th | Safer Bike Accommodations



Shared presentation "Chicago Ave 1"

Copy to your account

New Curb Bump-Outs

- Shorten pedestrian crossing distance
- Enhance visibility between motorists and pedestrians
- Slower turning speeds around corners
- Expand sidewalk space at intersections



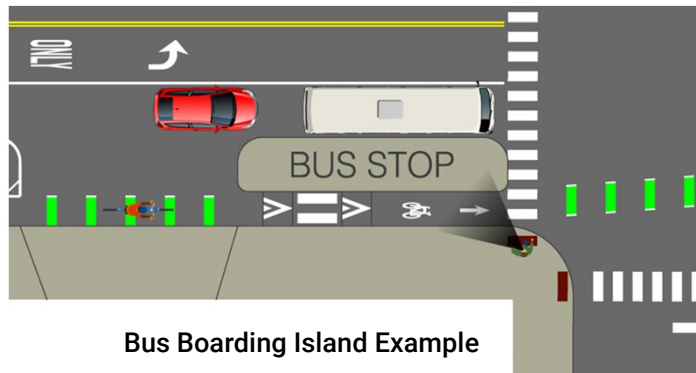
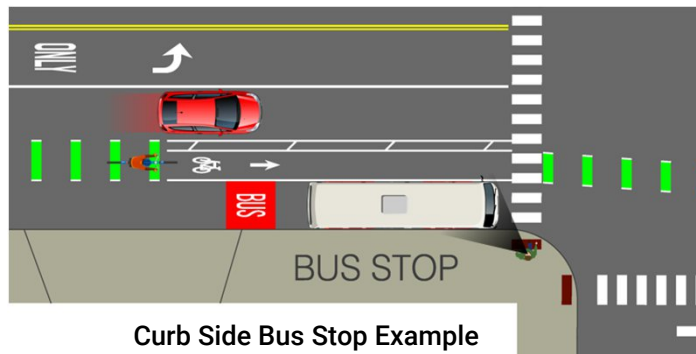
Example Curb Bump-Outs

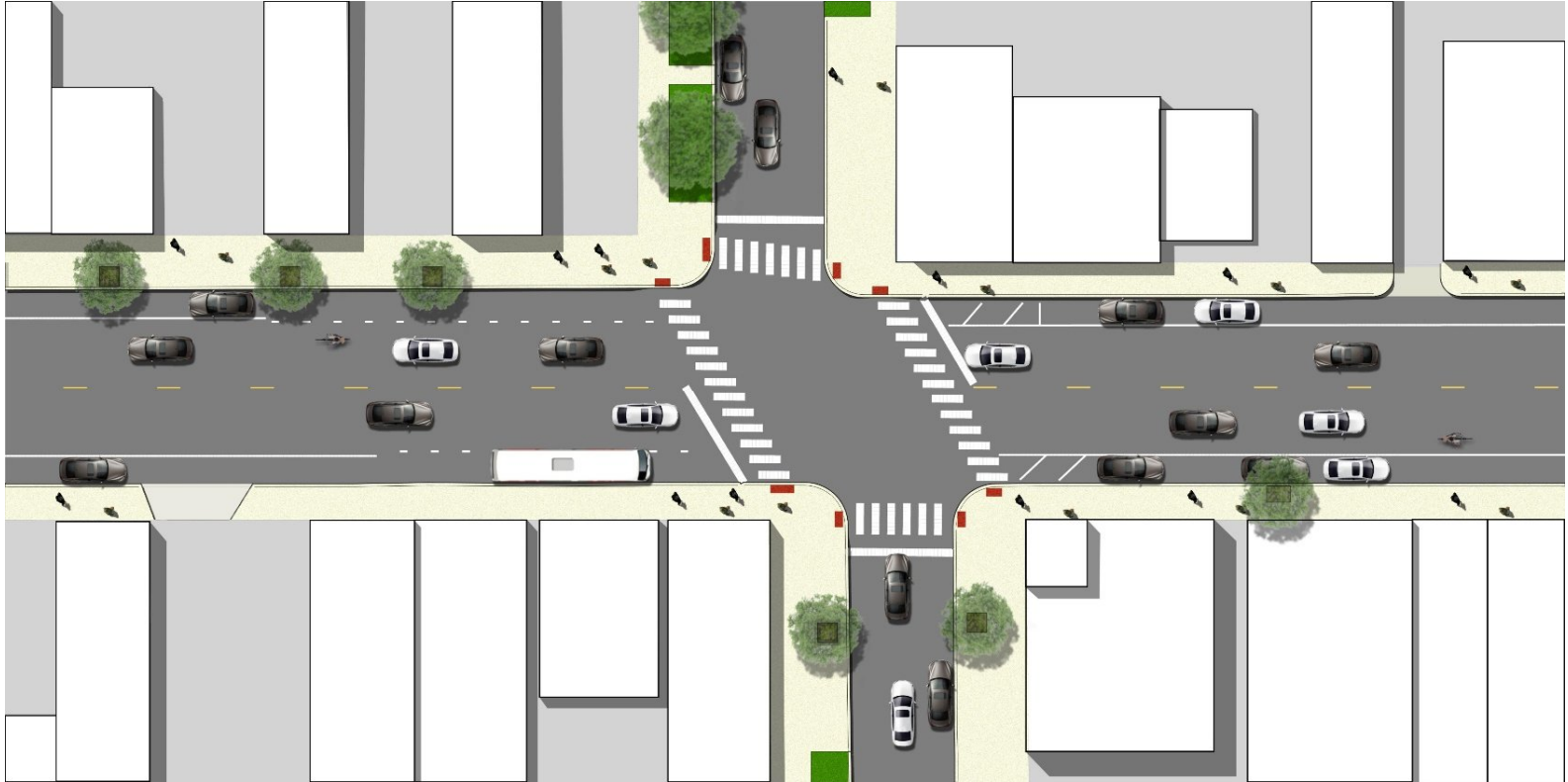


Enhanced Visibility at Curb Bump-Out

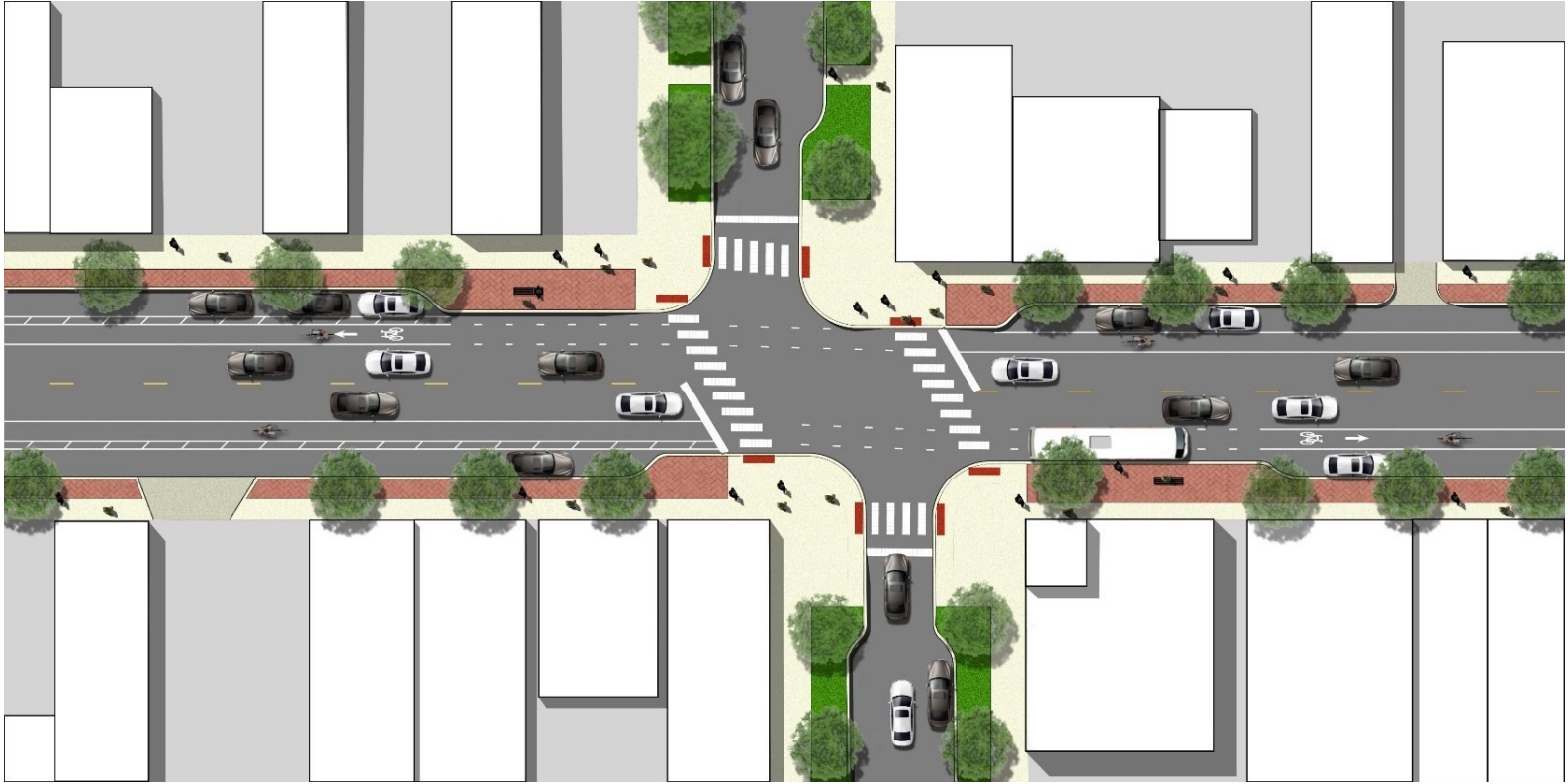
New Bus Boarding Islands

- Provide **dedicated space** for transit passengers while maintaining clear sidewalks
- **Increase transit efficiency** by eliminating merge into travel lane from stop
- **Reduce bike conflicts** lanes by eliminating bus/bike mixing zones
- **Reduce “multiple threat” crashes** – where a stopped bus obscures the view of moving vehicles next to it

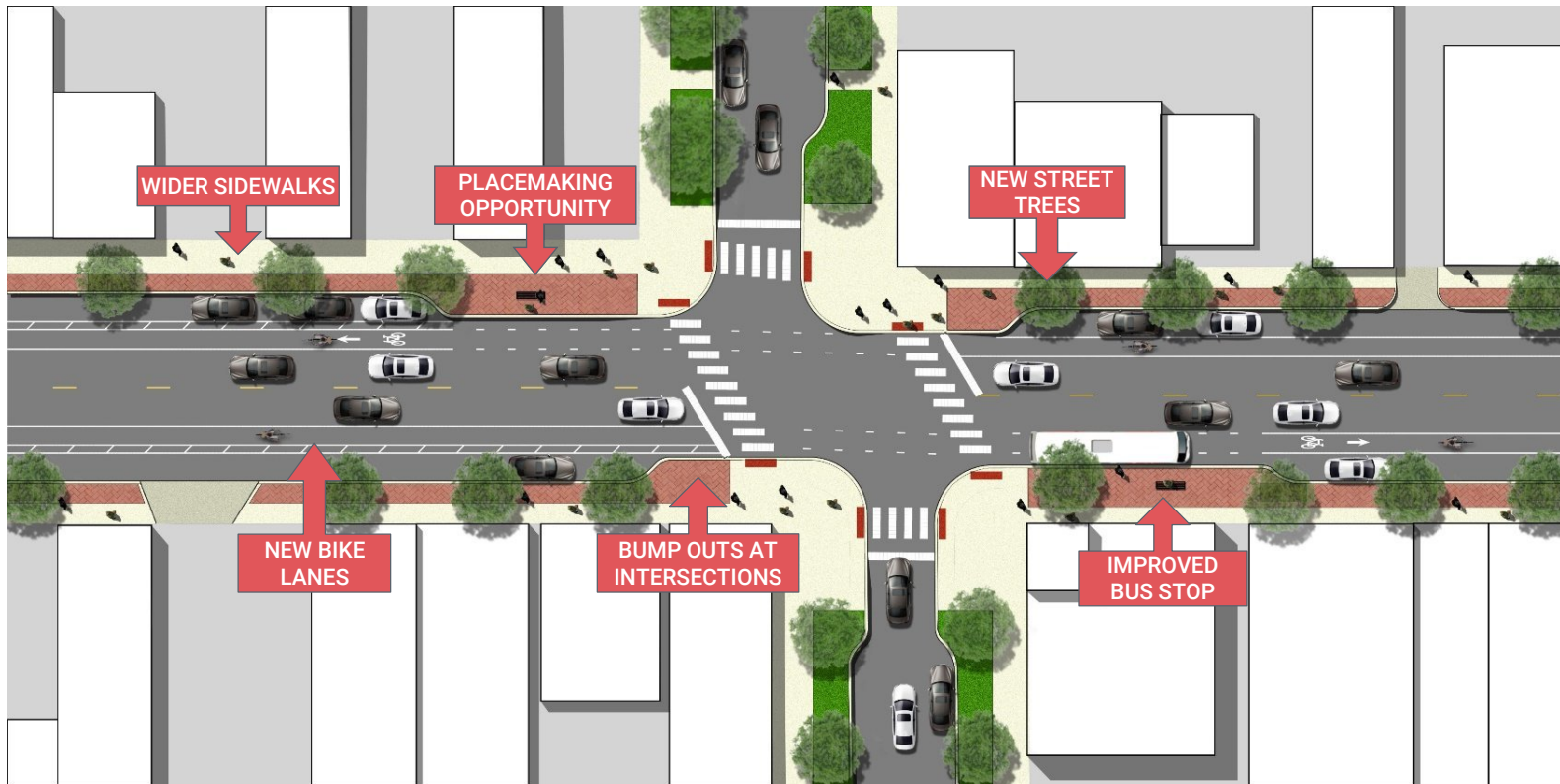




EXISTING INTERSECTION



POTENTIAL INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS



POTENTIAL INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 87 08 04 2

What would you like to see at Intersections?



- 01** Gather feedback from today's meeting and follow-up [survey](#)
- 02** Meet with a focus group of community stakeholders
- 03** Develop Soul City design theme alternatives for the corridor
- 04** Design infrastructure and safety improvements

Coming Soon!

Community Survey

Help us understand the existing conditions related to potential corridor improvements

Public Meeting #2

Preferred alternatives presented for roadway design and character elements

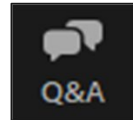
Pop-Up Corridor Activation

Territory youth engagement to paint or install prototype of character-defining elements in the corridor

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?

We value **YOUR** opinion and input!

Please add any questions or comments you have to the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We appreciate **YOU** taking the time to join us!

More on the project website! : <https://tinyurl.com/ISWChicagoAve>

Please use the website comment box or call 312-744-5900 if you have any questions about the project.

Please reference [Chicago Avenue from Austin to Cicero](#) in your message.

