



# ISW AUSTIN Chicago Avenue Corridor Improvements

**PUBLIC MEETING #2**

**March 1, 2022**



# 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](#).

**CHICAGO AVE. CORRIDOR – AUSTIN TO CICERO**





**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** Introductions
- 02** Project Overview
- 03** Schedule
- 04** Public Engagement
  - Recap of Public Meeting #1
  - Small Group Conversations
- 05** Soul of Chicago Avenue - Themes
- 06** Street Design
- 07** Youth Lead Design
- 08** Next Steps

## Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)

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

## 29<sup>th</sup> Ward

- Alderman Taliaferro

## 37<sup>th</sup> Ward

- Alderman Mitts

## Civiltech

- Mike Folkening

## Lamar Johnson Collaborative

- Lesley Roth

## Territory NFP (Austin Studio)

Youth Engagement

## Alt\_Chicago (Austin Based Artists)

Project Artist, Urban Design Support

## OSEH (MBE)

Traffic Data Collection

## Wang Engineering (MBE)

Geotechnical Engineering

## EDI (MBE)

Topographic Survey

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

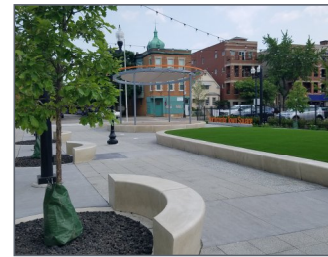
Supports the Invest South/West initiative to re-activate neighborhood cores that have historically served as focal points for pedestrian activity, shopping, services, transportation, public spaces and quality-of life amenities for residents.

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



# PROJECT SCOPE

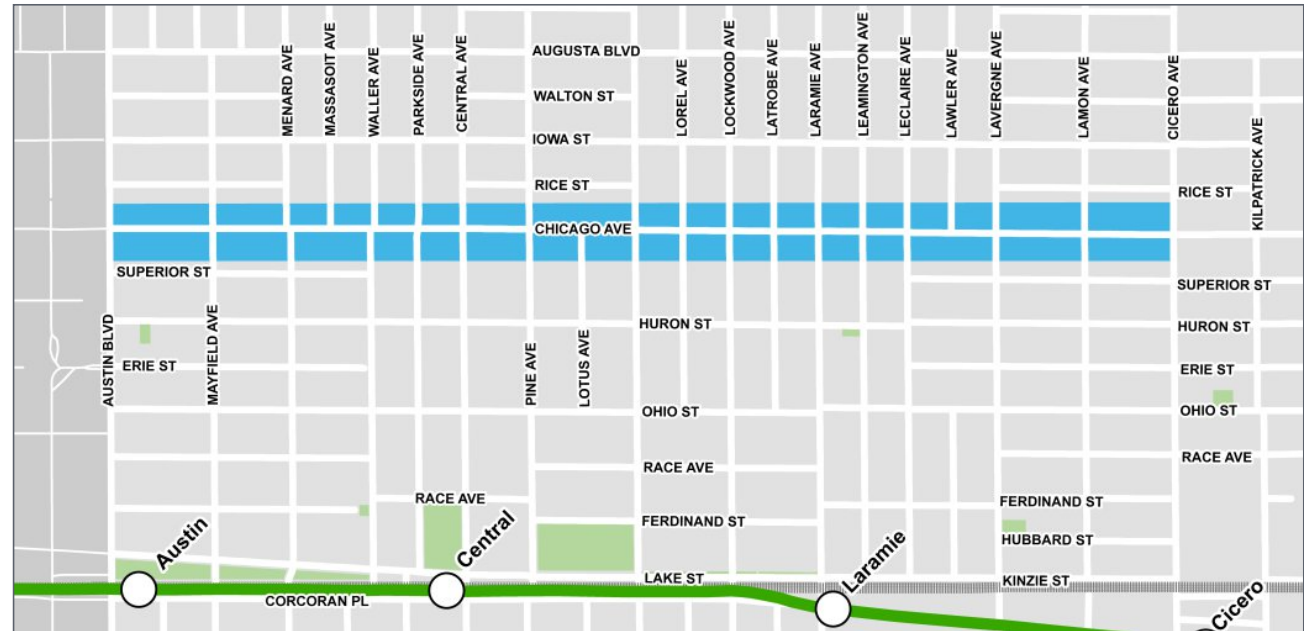


# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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



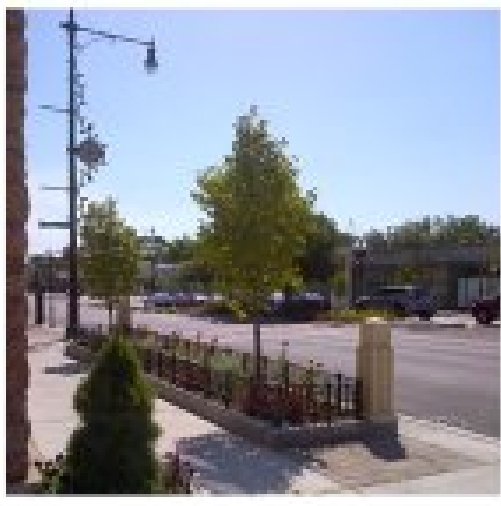
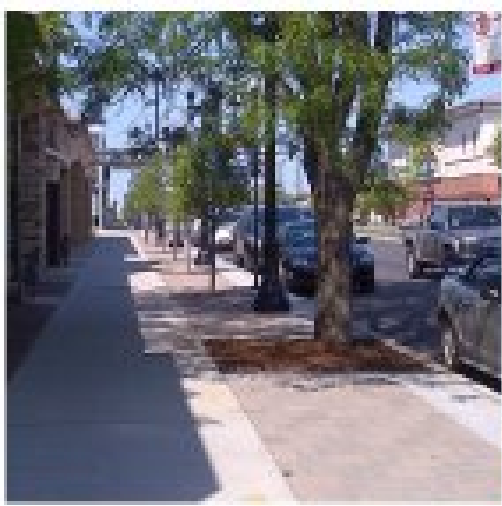
## LIMITS AND IMPROVEMENTS





# 95TH ST, DAMEN TO WESTERN AVE

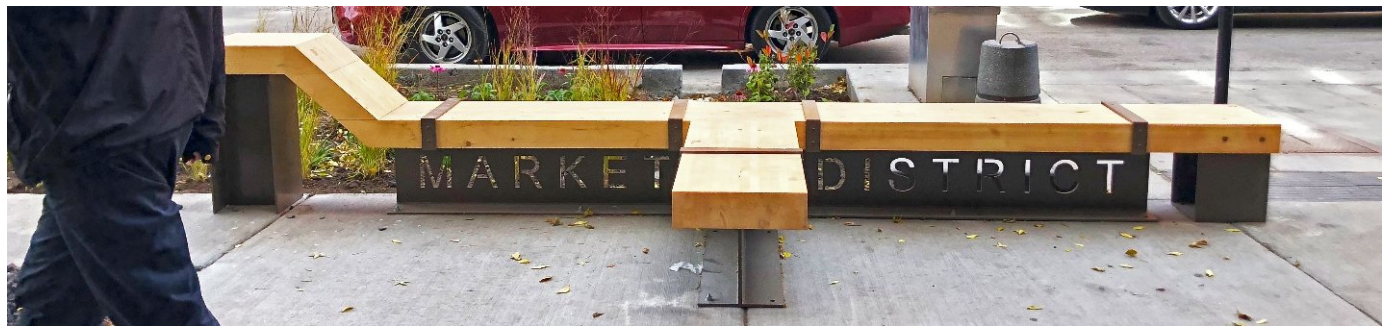
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## CHICAGO STREETScape EXAMPLES



# FULTON MARKET DISTRICT



# CHICAGO STREETScape EXAMPLES



# PULASKI ROAD



## CHICAGO STREETScape EXAMPLES







## Spring 2021

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

## Summer/Fall 2021

- ISW Roundtable Meetings
- Public Meeting #1
- Project Survey #1
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Small Group Meetings
- Preliminary Concept development

## Winter 2021/2022

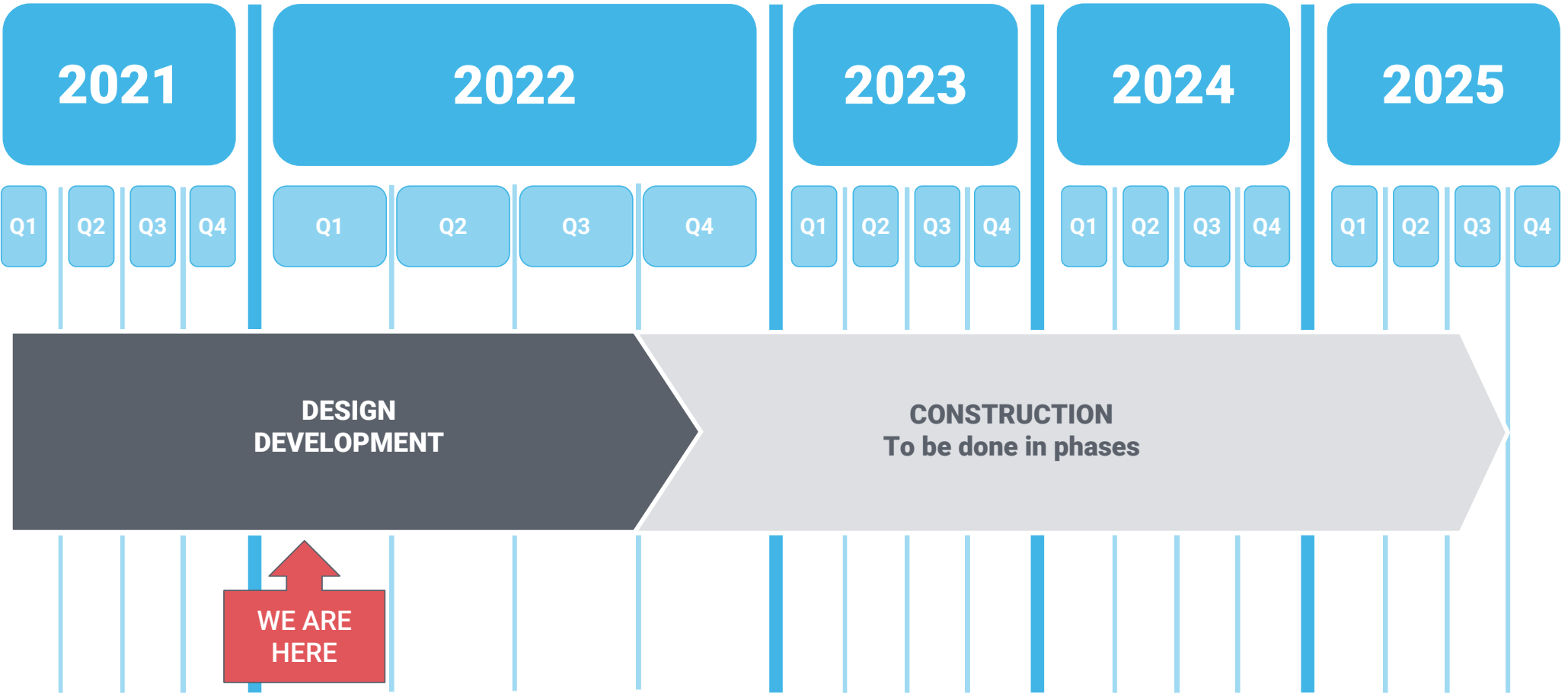
- ISW Roundtable Meetings
- Public Meeting #2
- Small Group Meetings
- Preliminary Concept development

## Spring 2022

- Design Refinement
- Preferred Concepts
- ISW Roundtable Meetings
- Public Meeting #3



# PROJECT SCHEDULE



DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION



# PROJECT PHASING

AUSTIN

CENTRAL

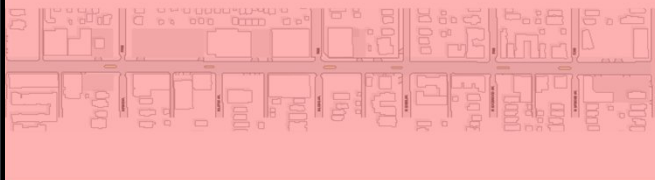
LARAMIE

CICERO

**Austin West**

**Austin Central**

**Austin East**



**Est. Start  
Fall 2022**

**Est. Start  
Summer 2023**

**Est. Start  
Spring 2024**

# DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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## PAST EVENTS

ISW Roundtables	Jun 18 2021, August 20 2021, Feb 18 2022
Public Meeting #1	Aug 24, 2021, zoom videoconference
Online Survey #1	Sep 8 – Sep 23 2021
Territory Youth Event	Oct. 23, 2021
Small Group Meetings	Oct 28 2021: Civic & Institutional Groups Oct 28 2021: Businesses and Property Owners Nov 3 2021: Artists and Cultural Institutions

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Small Group Workshops	Spring 2022
Public Meeting #3	Spring 2022

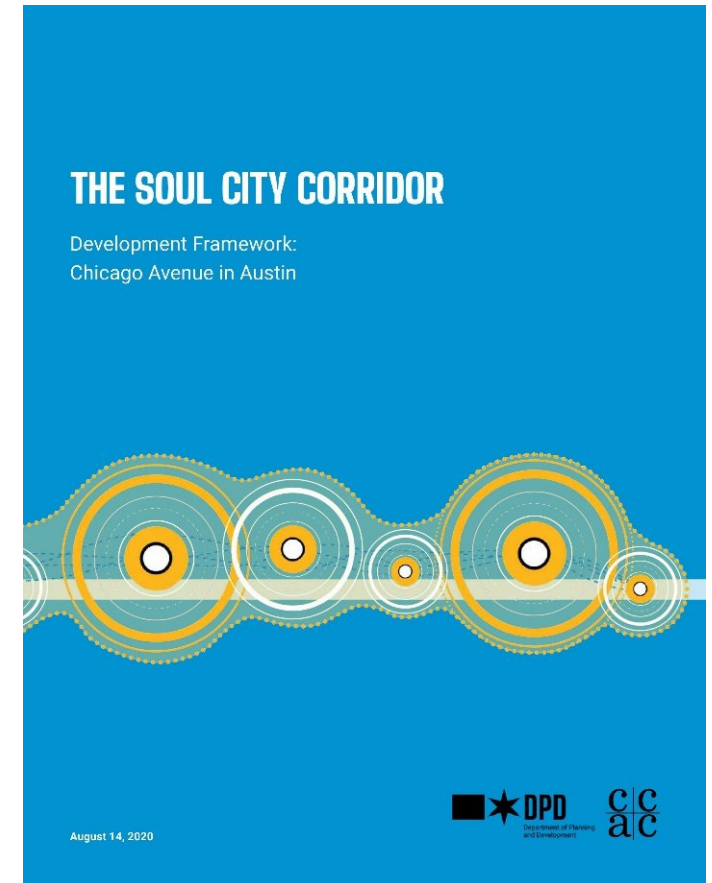
Meeting Recording and Summary  
available on the project website!  
[https://tinyurl.com/  
ISWChicagoAve](https://tinyurl.com/ISWChicagoAve)

## WHAT WE HEARD





- Rooted in a distinct cultural identity of Black art, music, food, and entertainment
- Historical roots on the West Side
- Celebrates the existing arts and culture scene in Austin
- A theme for creating an enclave for Black culture and economic development.

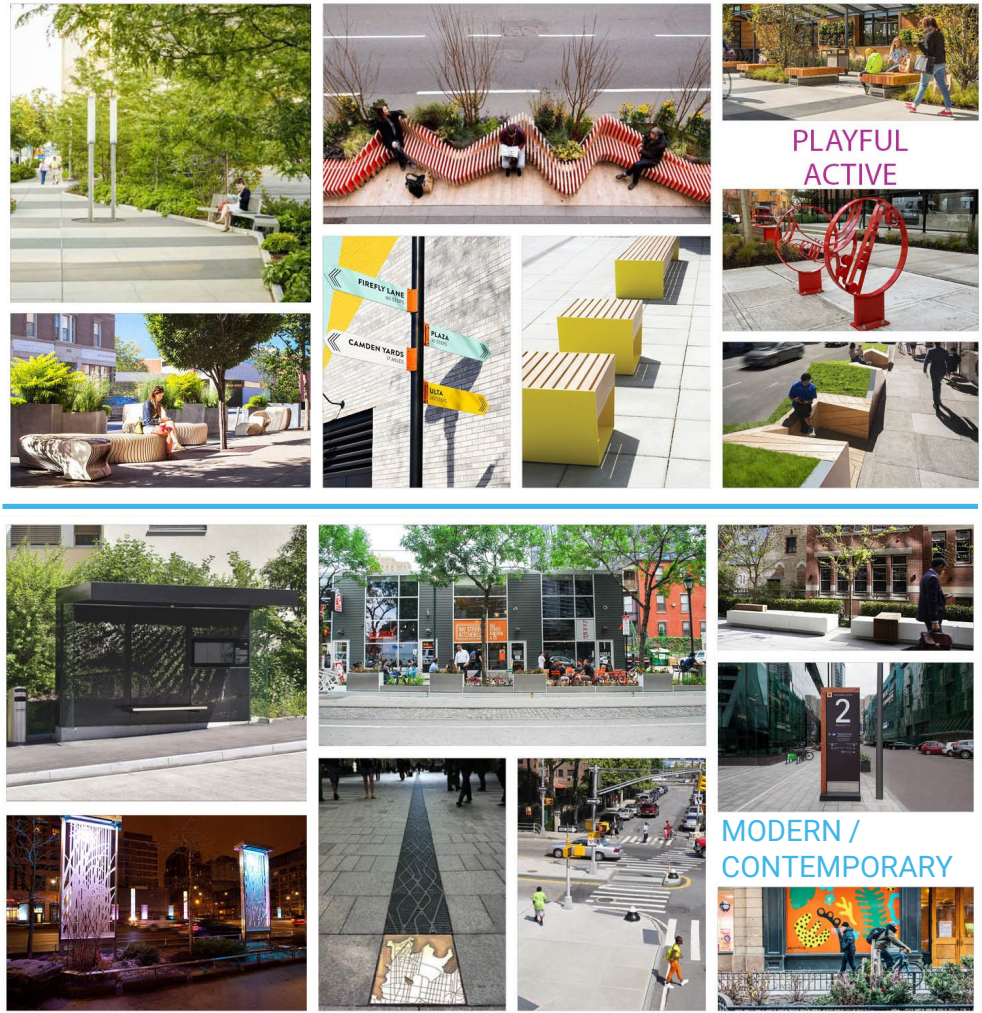
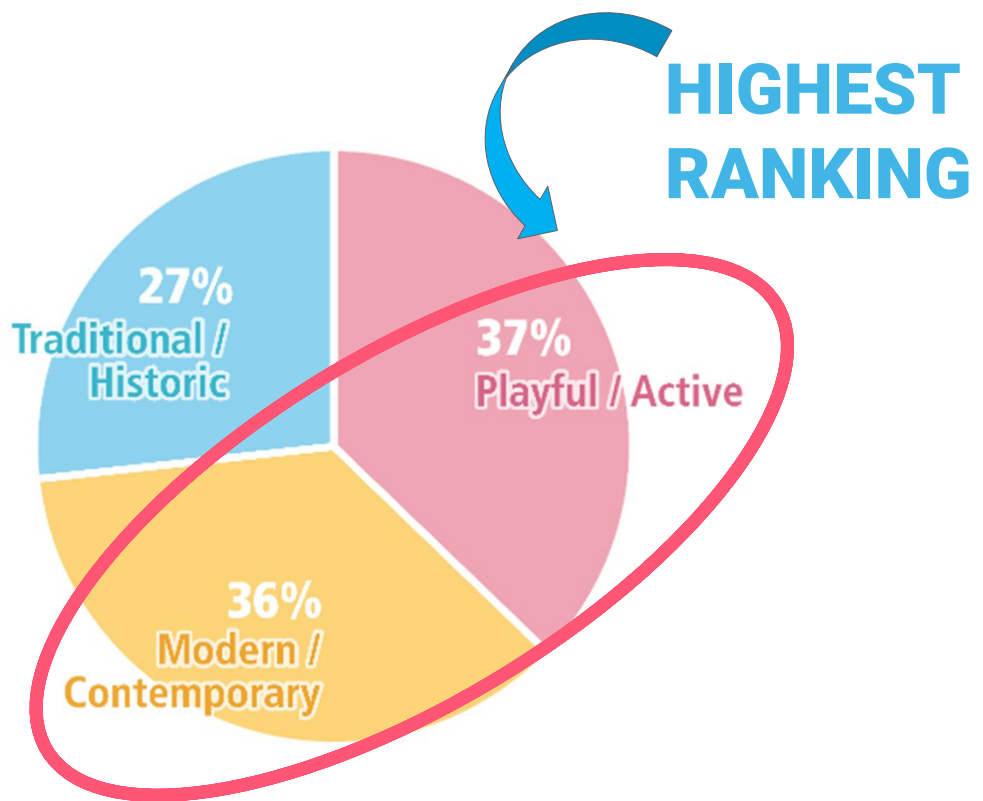


## What We Heard

- Community Outreach – general desire for more, specifically with the businesses
- Sidewalks – the need for wider more comfortable sidewalks
- Parking – on-street parking is vital to businesses
- Bike Lanes – More information needed to explain overall corridor benefits
- Decorative Features & Neighborhood Identity – building off of previous studies, Soul City

Feedback Summary available on the project website! <https://tinyurl.com/ISWChicagoAve>

# PUBLIC MEETING #1 FEEDBACK

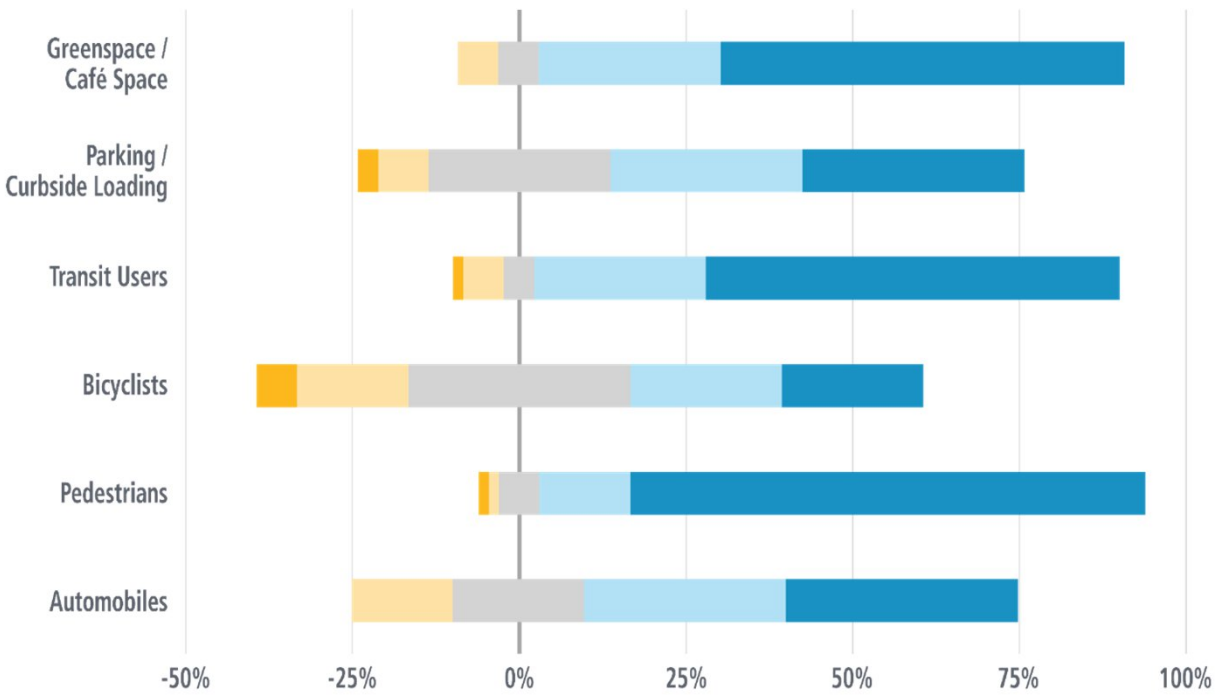


## WHAT WE HEARD



# PUBLIC MEETING #1 FEEDBACK

Survey Question: How would you like to prioritize user groups for the Chicago Avenue Corridor?



Not Important | Less Important | Neutral | Somewhat important | Very Important

## COMMUNITY INFLUENCED RECOMMENDATIONS



## Q: What does Soul City mean to you?



*"City of Souls.  
Everyone living is contributing.  
Empowerment, encouragement and support."*

*"A Major Transformation of Investment in a  
community that has had No Investment since  
1968. HOPE"*

*"Cultural center for Black Chicagoans that  
people from all over the city come to visit for  
shopping, dining, and events"*

*"A clean, vibrant, friendly and welcoming  
community without gangs and drugs."*

*"A city with the needs and wants of American  
Americans in mind that is well built with  
beautiful scenery."*

*"Taking back our community! Giving our next  
generation something positive to gravitate to. A  
spirit of entrepreneurship!"*

## Civic & Institutional Groups

- Enhance the pedestrian experience with **new lighting and landscape**.
- Create a **community identity** to brand the corridor.
- Discourage **side road traffic**.

## Business and Property Owners

- **Widen sidewalks** and ability to have **alfresco dining**.
- Use **color and texture** to create a **vibrant street**.
- **Maintain parking**
- Reflect **African Heritage**.

## Artists

- More **safety improvements and new trees**
- Create a **visual identity for the corridor**.
- **Celebrate black history and culture** or create a “Little Africa”
- **Celebrate Austin’s history** and put it on display

## Theme 1: Family Roots

- Family is everything
- Legacy Great migration
- Celebrate historic entrepreneurs on the corridor

## Theme 2: Arts and Culture

- Proud of musical heritage and new styles developed
- Celebrate through dance
- Music brings people together

## Theme 3: Successful Future

- Improve quality of life for next generation
- Inspire and shine a light forward
- Bridge to the future

## THEME 1 ROOTED IN PLACE



## THEME 2 CHICAGO RHYTHM

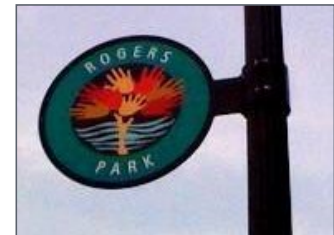
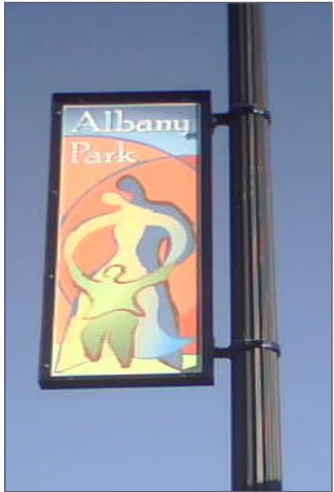


## THEME 3 BRIGHT FUTURE





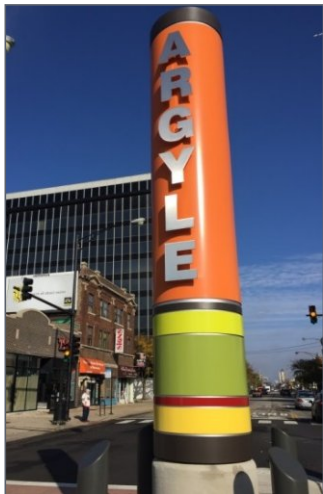
# COMMUNITY IDENTIFIERS



# LIGHT POLE IDENTIFIER

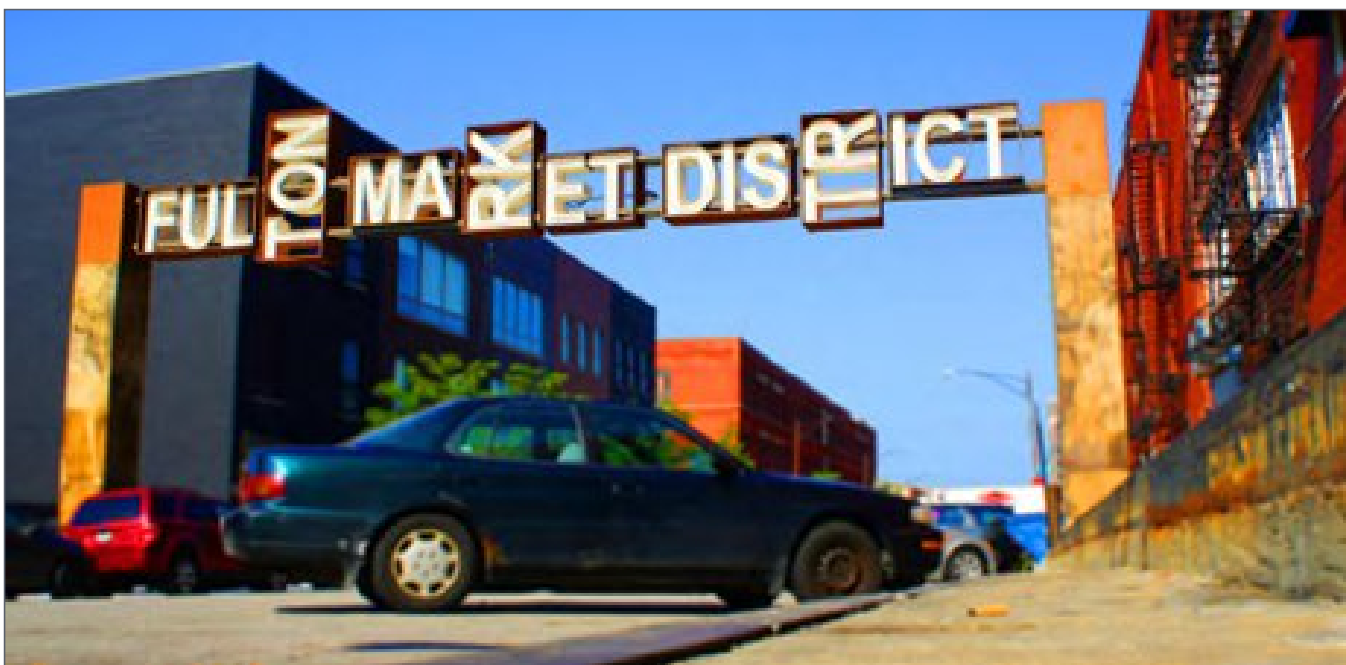


# COMMUNITY IDENTIFIERS



## VERTICAL IDENTIFIERS— GATEWAY





PLEASE ENTER YOUR THOUGHTS ON THESE THEMES IN THE CHAT.

DO THEY RESONATE WITH YOU?

HOW CAN THEY REPRESENT SOUL CITY?

DO YOU HAVE OTHER THOUGHTS ON WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE REPRESENTED?

**THEME 1**  
***ROOTED IN PLACE***



**THEME 2**  
***CHICAGO RHYTHM***

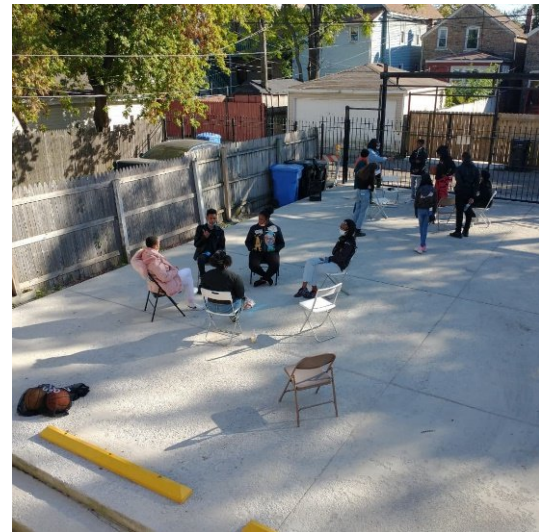
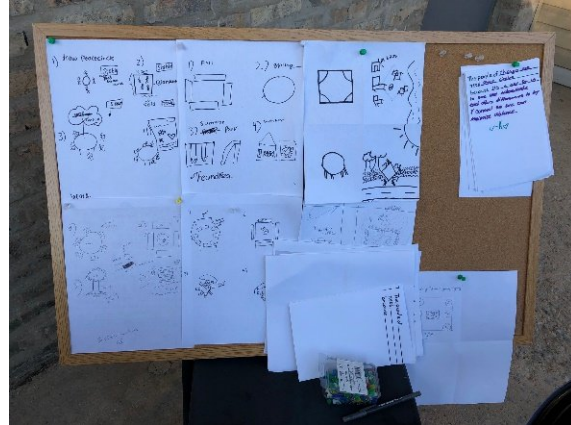


**THEME 3**  
***BRIGHT FUTURE***



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP #3

17 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS  
PARTICIPATED IN PEACE CIRCLES  
DISCUSSED USE OF SPACE AND  
DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



## WHAT WE HEARD

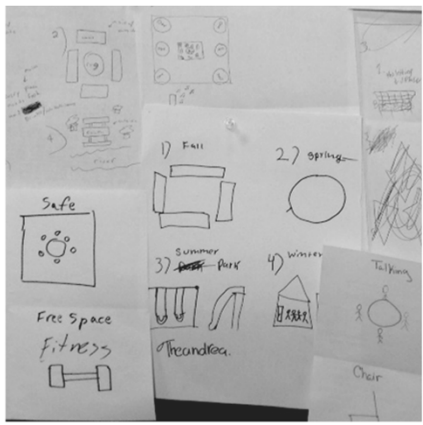
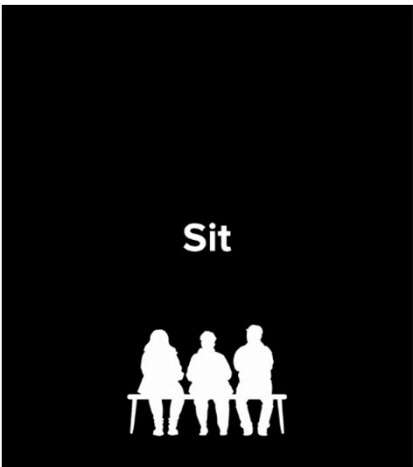
## Sit - Stand - Strut

Territory 2021 Fall Studio: Youth vision for Chicago Avenue's Soul City Corridor

Three types of pedestrian modalities, three youth-specific activities.

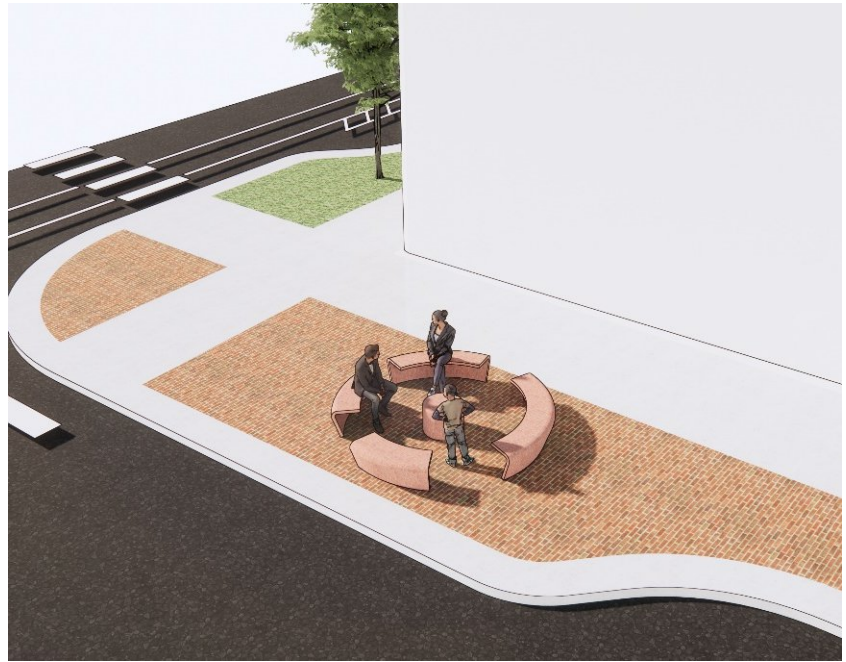
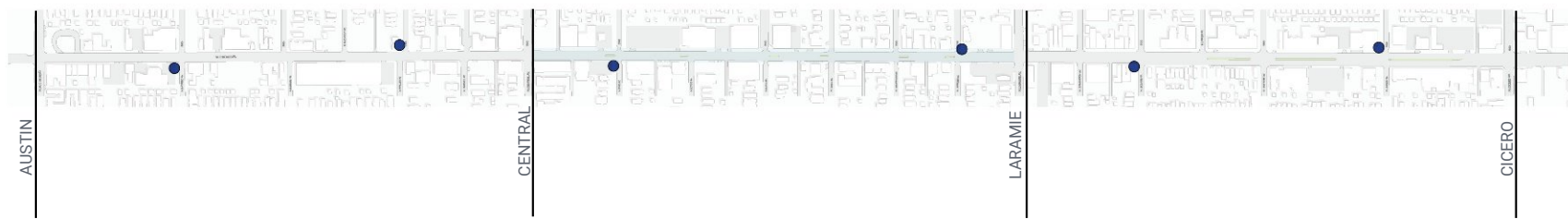
1. Sit – Peace Circles
2. Stand – Retail
3. Strut – Confident Walking





*The people of Chicago Ave need peace circles because it's a way for us to see and acknowledge difference to and connect so we can minimize violence." –Kashila*

*"The people of Chicago need a peace circle because I think that it helps people feel more safe like they belong there." – Destiny*





- **Incorporate input from the community**
- **Weave in results from data and technical analyses**
- **Balance travel priorities of all roadway users**
- **Prioritize the most vulnerable – people walking and biking**
- **Maintain parking**
- **Create a vibrant street that supports economic development**

## **Chicago Avenue Recommendations:**

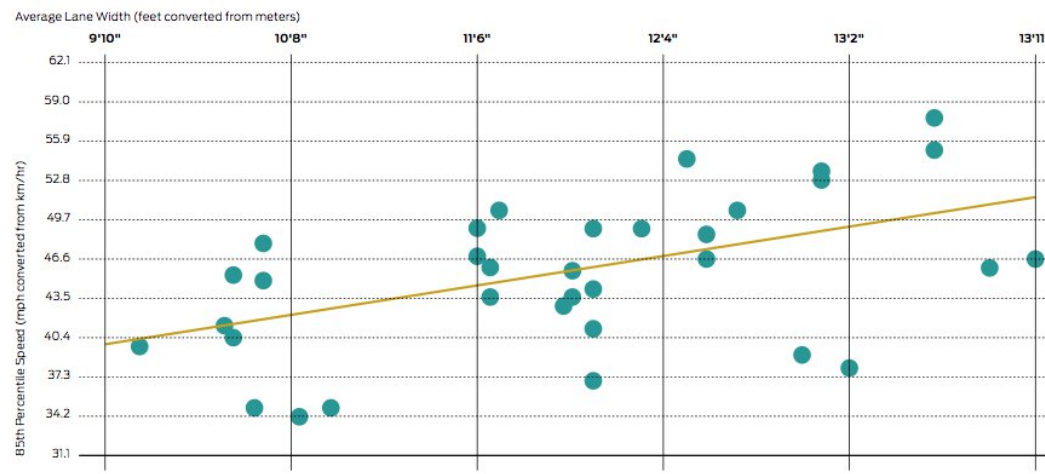
- Maximize the width of sidewalks and parkways for pedestrians and café space
- Add Greenspace and trees within the parkway
- Narrow travel lanes
- Add bike lanes
- Maintain on-street parking
- Physical curb extensions
- New lighting

*Wider travel lanes are correlated with higher vehicle speeds without limiting traffic flow.*

Per the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO):

- 10-foot lanes are appropriate on major streets in urban settings.
- 11-foot lanes may be preferred where larger vehicles (such as transit or truck traffic) but should be restricted to the outside lane of a multi-lane roadway.
- The measured saturation flow rates are similar for lane widths between 10 feet and 12 feet.

### Lane width (x-axis) vs. Speed (y-axis)



"As the width of the lane increased, the speed on the roadway increased... When lane widths are 1 m (3.3 ft) greater, speeds are predicted to be 15 km/h (9.4 mph) faster."

Chart source: Fitzpatrick, Kay, Paul Carlson, Marcus Brewer, and Mark Wooldrige. 2000. "Design Factors That Affect Driver Speed on Suburban Streets." *Transportation Research Record* 1751: 18-25.

Legend:  
— Regression Line  
● 85th Percentile Speed of Traffic

Source: NACTO

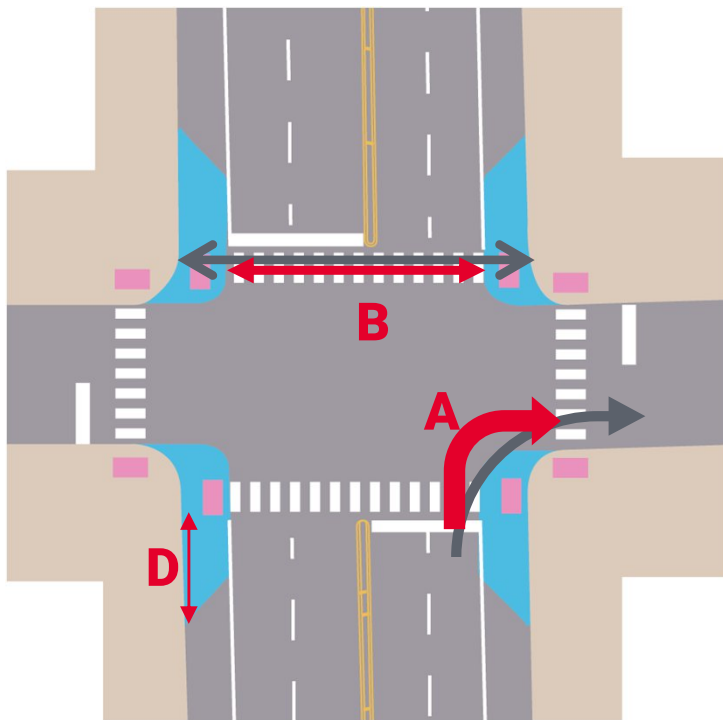
*Narrowing travel lanes can reduce drivers' speed and increase safety for all roadway users and for pedestrians in particular.*

- Fewer opportunities for speeding and aggressive driving, thereby decreasing the instances and frequency of crashes.
- Slower speeds mitigate the potential severity of crashes.
- Narrower travel lanes decrease exposure and crossing distance for pedestrians at intersections and midblock crossings, while slower speeds give pedestrians greater opportunity to cross.

*Higher speeds are correlated with higher crash severity.*

hit by a car driving at...



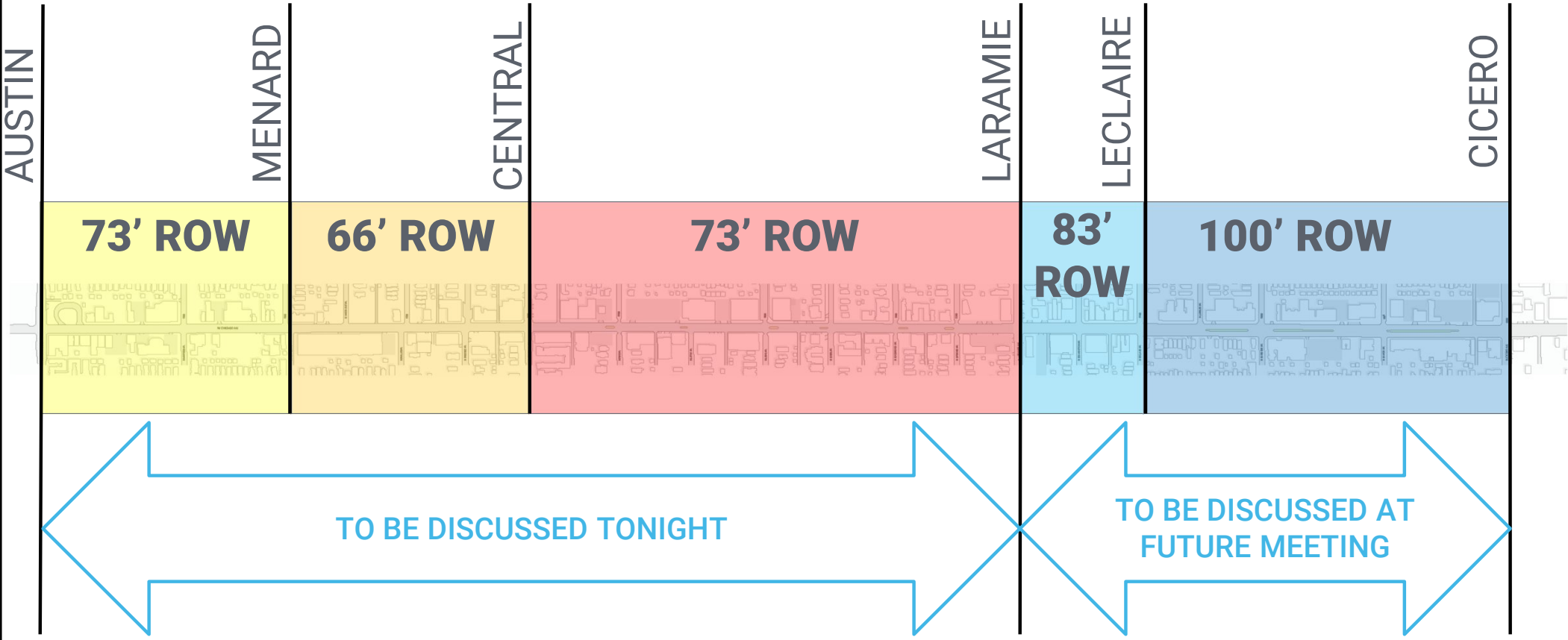


Bumpouts...

- A. Reduce the turning speed of vehicles
- B. Reduce the distance that pedestrians must cross
- C. Improve visibility between motorists and pedestrians
- D. Eliminate illegal parking in the corner clearance zone
- E. Allow for corner street furniture and other amenities to enhance the public realm

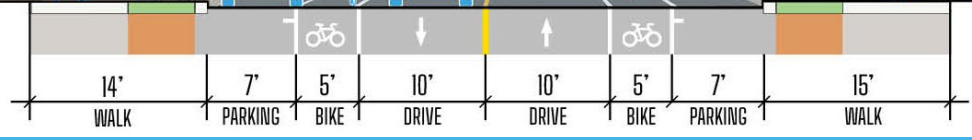
Intersection bumpouts should be installed *whenever on-street parking is present* to increase visibility, reduce the crossing distance, provide extra queuing space, and allow for enhancements such as seating or greenery. *Source: NACTO*

# STREET DESIGN



## KEY PLAN

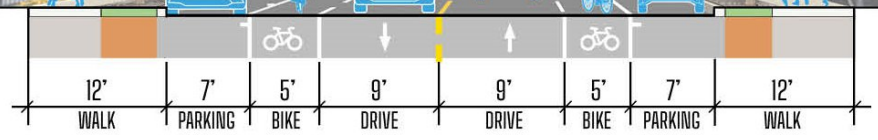
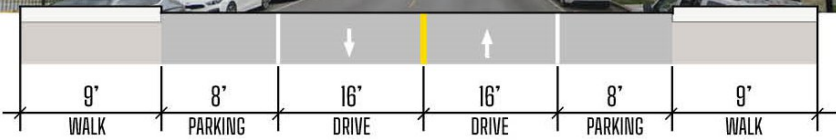




- Proposed improvements:**
- South sidewalk widened from 9' to 15'
  - Added parkway pavers and street trees
  - New lighting
  - Narrowed traffic lanes
  - Added Bike Lanes
  - Retained On Street Parking

## ROAD SECTION – AUSTIN TO MENARD (73' ROW)

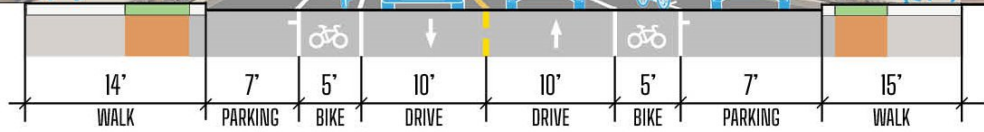
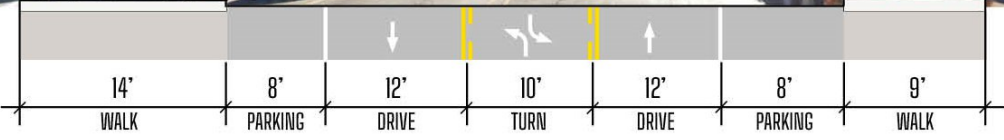




- Proposed Improvements:**
- Sidewalks widened from 9' to 12'
  - Dashed Bike Lanes
  - Added parkway pavers and street trees
  - New lighting
  - Narrowed traffic lanes
  - Added Bike Lanes
  - Retained On Street Parking

## ROAD SECTION – MENARD TO CENTRAL (66' ROW)



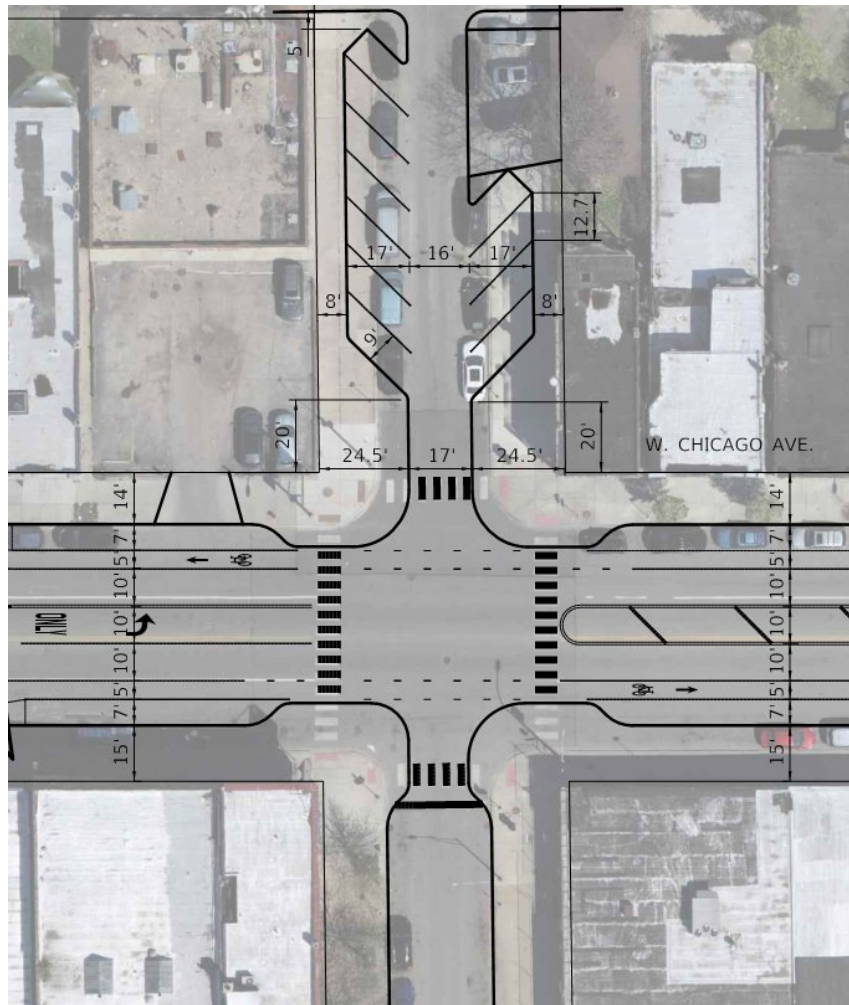


- Proposed Improvements:**
- South sidewalk widened from 9' to 15'
  - Added parkway pavers and street trees
  - New Lighting
  - Narrowed traffic lanes
  - Added Bike Lanes
  - Retained On Street Parking

## ROAD SECTION – CENTRAL TO LARAMIE (73' ROW)







## New Side Street Parking

- Key locations throughout the corridor
- Easier to park near destination
- Maintain 8' sidewalks in front of parking spaces
- Offset parking lost due to bump-outs

## New Raised Crosswalks

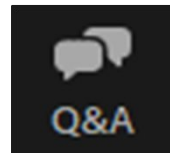
- Crosswalks parallel to Chicago Ave, not crossing Chicago Ave.
- Located on non-signalized intersections.
- Raises crosswalk to sidewalk level.
- Provides safer crossings for pedestrians.
- Slows traffic pulling onto side streets .

- 01** Small Group Design Workshop #1
- 02** Small Group Design Workshop #2
- 03** Public Meeting #3
- 04** Refine Design

# 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 email us at [wvannortwick@knightea.com](mailto:wvannortwick@knightea.com) if you have any questions about the project.

Please reference **Chicago Avenue from Austin to Cicero** in your message.

