WELCOME!
Thank you for joining us for the ISW North Lawndale: Ogden Avenue Pulaski to Roosevelt Corridor Improvements
PUBLIC MEETING #1
April 12, 2023
INTRODUCTIONS

Chicago Department of Transportation
Lubka Benak, Project Director, CDOT
Vanessa Irizarry, AICP, Project Manager, CDOT
Cody Matchen, Project Engineer, CDOT

Elected Officials
Alderwoman Scott (24th Ward)
Alderman Rodriguez (22nd Ward)
Alderman Ervin (28th Ward)

Civiltech Engineering (Lead)
Transportation Engineering
• Chris Wolff
• Lissa Sweeney
• Amanda Kleinwachter
• Zaneta Marcinik

Homan Grown
Community Engagement Support & Landscape Design
• Mike Folkening
• Phil Hutchinson
• John Magill
• Edith Portales

Quigg Engineering (MBE)
Data Collection & Transportation Engineering

Guarino Historic Resources
Historic Preservation

DB Sterlin Consultants (MBE)
Topographic Survey

Lamar Johnson Collaborative
Community Engagement & Urban Design

GSG Consultants (MBE)
Geotechnical Engineering

Gehl
Urban Design

Singh & Associates (WBE)
Electrical and Traffic Signal Engineering

INVEST SOUTH WEST
CHICAGO WORKS
MEETING AGENDA

Brief Presentation

01 Project Overview
02 Past and Current Planning Efforts
03 Challenges and Opportunities
04 Placemaking

Your Feedback (Dining Room)

05 Activity Stations
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 BOUNDARY

ISW North Lawndale: Ogden Avenue Improvements
Pulaski to Roosevelt
PROJECT SCOPE

Street Geometry

Drainage Improvements

Sidewalk Improvements

Light Pole Identifier

Road Resurfacing

Lighting

Intersection Improvements

Gateway Identifiers

Landscape/Sustainability

Seating Areas

Curb Extensions / ADA Upgrades

Pavement Marking
CDOT has initiated a Phase I study of the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Transportation, as Ogden Avenue is a state route. This includes community visioning, design development, preliminary engineering, and environmental clearances. The public will be engaged at every stage of the process. Phase II of the project will be the Detailed Design, during which final engineering plans are developed, followed by construction.
This is an opportunity to reimagine Ogden Avenue as a multimodal transportation corridor, as a hub for community activity, and catalyst for economic development.
PAST AND CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS
Key Takeaways
From a review of past and current community planning efforts, the following themes emerged which will be taking into consideration during the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvement project.

Safety

• Prioritize efforts that focus on safety for all modes along Ogden Avenue. (NLCCC Quality of Life Plan, 2018; Vision Zero West Side Plan, 2019)

• Reconfigure the roadway to create a safer, more pedestrian and cyclist friendly corridor. Install safety treatments to alert drivers, slow down traffic, and guide pedestrians. Improve pedestrian waiting zones. Target safety improvements around public transit stations. (NLCCC Quality of Life Plan, 2018; Vision Zero West Side Plan, 2019; INVEST South/West Kick-Off Meeting, 2020)

• Examples of treatments to focus on include speed humps, pedestrian countdown timers, high visibility crosswalks, ADA ramps, refuge islands, curb extensions, and improved lighting. (NLCCC Quality of Life Plan, 2018)
PAST AND CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS

Key Takeaways
From a review of past and current community planning efforts, the following themes emerged which will be taking into consideration during the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvement project.

Placemaking and Aesthetics

• Create a more pedestrian and business friendly environment and better serves the local community. (NLCCC Quality of Life Plan, 2018; INVEST South/West Kick-Off Meeting, 2020)

• Reclaim space for community features. Examples include wider sidewalks, outdoor seating and dining areas, landscaping, and protected bike lanes. (NLCCC Quality of Life Plan, 2018; INVEST South/West Kick-Off Meeting, 2020)

• Install green infrastructure in right-of-way for stormwater management, including bioswales, small native plantings, and/or permeable pavers. (NLCCC Quality of Life Plan, 2018)

• Create and install community branding and identifiers along Ogden, highlighting historic US Route 66. Install gateway murals. (NLCCC Quality of Life Plan, 2018)
**Community Planning Efforts**

**North Lawndale Quality of Life Plan** – Comprehensive community plan completed in 2018.
- Prioritizes Ogden as a key community corridor for economic development and institutions.
- Recommends roadway improvements to better support pedestrians, cyclists and public transit.

**INVEST South/West** – Broad initiative to reactivate key commercial corridors on Chicago’s south and west sides.
- Leverages public funding and land resources to attract private investment in disinvested communities
- Resulted in two active mixed-use development projects on Ogden Avenue.

**Key Takeaways**
- New planned developments encourage a more pedestrian-friendly environment with outdoor plaza space and parking screened behind buildings.
- New development should support retail amenities that serve community needs.
- Vacant land on the corridor is currently a challenge, but also an opportunity for transformational redevelopment.
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

## Roadway Configuration

**Challenges**
- Highway-like feel
- Very long pedestrian crossings

**Opportunities**
- Reduce vehicle lanes
- Repurpose space for non-vehicular uses

## Intersections

**Challenges**
- Safety issues at intersections
- Service drives create delays

**Opportunities**
- Simplify intersections
## Pedestrian Experience

### Challenges
- Excessive distances to cross Ogden with no refuge spaces

### Opportunities
- Shorten crossing distances
- Refuge medians, curb extensions, raised crosswalks
- Wider sidewalks for more comfortable experience

## Transit Amenities

### Challenges
- Bus stops located within narrow medians
- Bus stops not ADA accessible

### Opportunities
- Focus safety improvements at transit stops and stations
## Challenges & Opportunities

### Douglass Park

**Challenges**
- Ogden Avenue creates a barrier for park users

**Opportunities**
- Safer park access across Ogden

### Corridor Identity

**Opportunities**
- Create a cohesive corridor identity and aesthetic for the corridor
- Identifiers such as gateways and light pole banners
- Historic Route 66 has been identified by stakeholders as a potential theme
Placemaking is the collaborative and ongoing process of creating quality places where people want to live, work, play and learn.

Transformative placemaking doesn’t just beautify a place — it uses place as a stage on which communities build power.
Investing in placemaking on Ogden Avenue can generate social, economic and environmental benefits, at the individual, neighborhood and citywide level.

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**
90 minutes of physical activity built into your routine can be achieved through urban design alone


**MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING**
Removing an hour from your commute produces the equivalent happiness of a 40% pay increase


**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**
Biking is nearly 10X more carbon efficient than driving

— “What’s the carbon footprint of ... cycling a mile?” The Guardian

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Shoppers arriving on foot, visit businesses more regularly spending more per month

— “Consumer Behavior and Travel Choices: A focus on Cyclist and Pedestrians” NACTO
Placemaking on Ogden Avenue

Across the entire Avenue

- Encourage active transportation
- Improve the pedestrian experience
- Mitigate extreme climate conditions
- Celebrate local history and identity

Within specific nodes

- Support local businesses
- Amplify existing centers of activity
- Activate underutilized spaces
- Provide quality connections between mobility modes
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We have various stations where you can provide feedback today!

Please join us in the Dining Room for activity stations and food.

Station #1
Challenges and Assets
Where do you go along Ogden Avenue? Where is it difficult to cross the street? Are there areas you avoid due to safety issues? Tell us about community assets and challenges you experience along Ogden Avenue on a map of the corridor.

Station #2
Ogden Avenue Today & Vision for Ogden Avenue
What comes to mind when traveling on Ogden Avenue today, and what would you like to see in the future? Share your ideas by drawing or writing on poster boards.

Station #3
Placemaking Elements
Review images of placemaking elements, such as lighting, trees, landscaping, community identifiers, and community gathering spaces, and tell us which you would like to see along Ogden Avenue and why.

Station #4
Public Survey
Answer questions about your connection to Ogden Avenue, your experience in the corridor today, and your vision for the future of the corridor.

Station #5
Kid’s Corner
Kids can tell us about their neighborhood and learn about bike safety with drawing and coloring activities!

Please join us in the Dining Room for activity stations and food.
We welcome feedback after the meeting!

Take the Online Public Survey: ImproveOgdenAve.org/get-involved

Email the Project Team: info@improveogdenave.org

Fill out the Online Comment Form & Subscribe to the Project Newsletter on the Project Website:
ImproveOgdenAve.org

While comments are welcome at any time to info@improveogdenave.org, the public comment period & public survey for this public meeting are open through May 12, 2023.

THANK YOU!