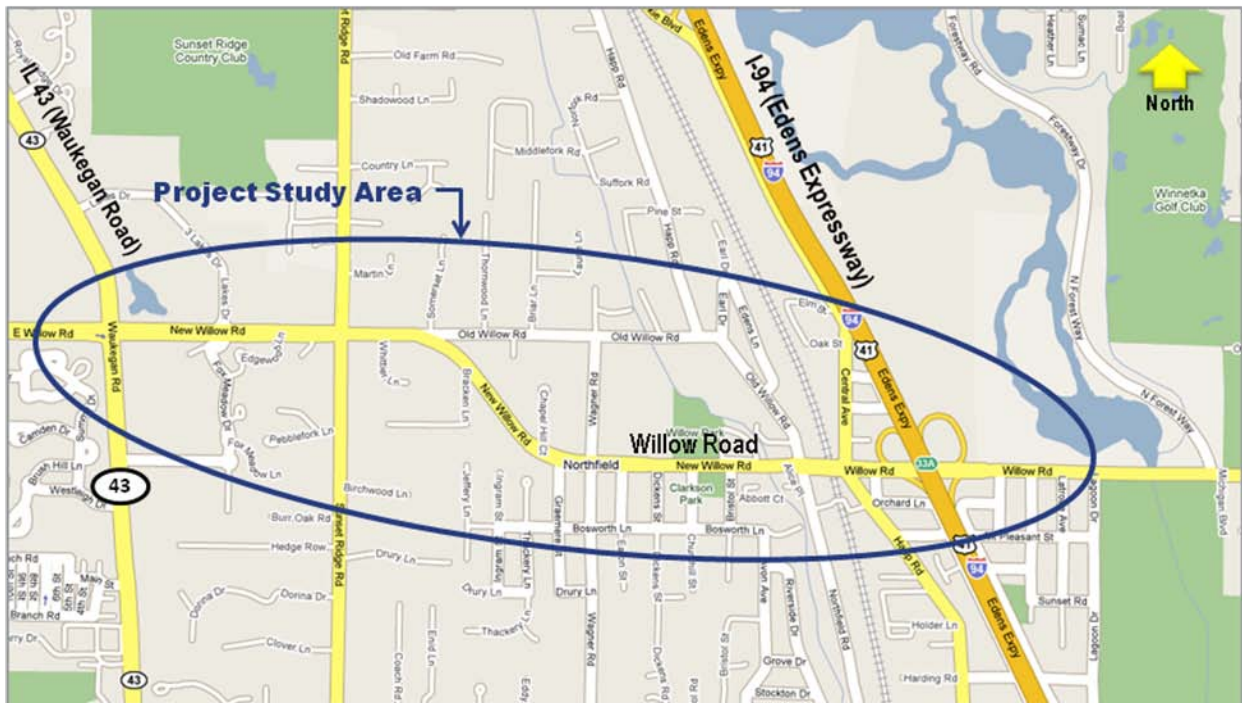




Summary of Public Meeting #1

Held on March 4, 2010



May 5, 2010

Version 1.1

INTRODUCTION

A public meeting open house for the Willow Road Study was held at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, Northbrook, Illinois, from 4:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. on March 4, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about the Willow Road Study planning process, summarize the results of the Community Context Audit and transportation needs identified by the Community Advisory Group (CAG), and seek public input.

NOTIFICATIONS

Prior to the public meeting, display ads were published in two local newspapers to announce the public meeting and provide details. The display ad was advertised on February 18 and 25, 2010, two weeks and one week before the public meeting, respectively. The display ad was published by the Pioneer Press in their secular weekly newspapers for the North Zone, and by the Chicago Tribune's TribLocal paper for Zones 11 and 13.

Invitation letters were mailed to elected officials, public agencies, CAG members and alternates, residents, and businesses along Willow Road within the study area. In addition to the display ad and letters, a public meeting flyer was provided to the four communities within the project study area. The flyer was provided for posting on each community's website or for distribution to their residents.

The CAG was also informed of the Public Meeting at the CAG Meeting #2 on January 14, 2010 and was provided a brief overview of the format and purpose of the public meeting.

DAY OF THE MEETING

Attendees were greeted at a registration table and provided a project brochure. The public meeting included a nine minute looping audio/video presentation that provided a general overview of the project. After viewing the presentation, attendees were directed to the main exhibit room. The exhibits in the main room provided general information, flow diagrams of the Context Sensitive Solutions and planning processes, overview of Project and CAG Meeting schedule, summary of the Community Context Audit results, and identified transportation needs developed by the CAG. In addition, two copies of project aerial were placed on tables and attendees were encouraged to add their comments onto the aerials. These exhibits showed locations of features identified in the Community Context Audit.

One hundred ninety-nine (199) people signed-in at the public meeting, including several CAG members and alternates.

The project brochure and handouts provided a summary of the items in the presentation and on display.

Separate from the public meeting, representatives from the North Suburban Awareness Group distributed information outside of the main room supporting a three-lane Willow Road plan. The information package included a one-page summary describing the three-lane plan, buttons, and car bumper magnets.

WHERE TO VIEW ALL PUBLIC MEETING #1 DOCUMENTS AND COMMENTS

All documents described in this summary for the public meeting and comments received will be available on the project website at www.willowroadfuture.org.

METHODS FOR MAKING COMMENTS AND PROVIDING INPUT

At the public meeting, there was a formal comment area where 1) written comments could be made on comment forms, and 2) oral comments could be given to a court reporter. In addition, comments could be written on the aerials of the study area. After the meeting, comments were received through the project website and through regular mail.

Comments made on the aerials of the study area were transcribed to a list and the list is available on the project website. All other comments received were sorted by community and last name. They are also available on the project website.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Statistics

Three hundred and sixty-three (363) comments were received by the March 19, 2010 comment period deadline. The summary of the comment format and from which communities they were received are detailed in the table below. Of the total 362 comments received, more than half (55%) were received through the project website at www.willowroadfuture.org. Approximately 45% of all the comments received came from Northfield residents, 28% from other or unknown residencies, 20% from Glenview residents, and 7% from Northbrook residents.

Comment Format	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other or unknown community
Written Comment Form	103	28	10	41	1	23
Project Website Email	199	35	12	75	1	76
Court Reporter	61	8	3	48	1	1
Total Comments Received:	363	71	25	164	3	100

Community Context Audit Comments

No new comments on the Community Context Audit (CCA) were received with the exception of one comment. The comment was noted on the project aerial exhibit on display during the public meeting. The comment noted that a Jewish Synagogue is located along Happ Road just north of the project limits and off of the exhibit. There were other comments made on the project aerial, but referred more towards specific solutions. These comments are discussed later in this document.

Identified Transportation Needs Comments

The public comments were consistent with the transportation needs identified by the CAG. No new needs were identified. A review of the comments revealed the most frequent Transportation Need comments from Public Meeting #1 included:

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
2. Traffic and Congestion
3. Cut-through Traffic
4. Community Cohesion
5. Roadway Safety
6. Flooding
7. 4-5 Lane Roads Exist in Other Communities
8. Impact of Development

Many of these comments were in support of specific solutions. Although the project is currently focused upon transportation needs, input from these comments may be helpful later in the project process as discussions about alternatives and solutions begin. The following table provides a breakdown of the comment categories, the total number of comments made for each category, and from which community the comment was received.

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Comments were made on a variety of other topics including: lack of busing for Northfield school children, providing separate bicycle lanes or a multi-use path, the need for other interchanges near the project study area along I-294 and I-94, and several comments relating to speeding. However, the number of comments received on these topics was less than ten.

Comment Category	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other or unknown community
1. Children/Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety	107	6	8	76	1	16
2. Traffic & Congestion	48	17	4	7	2	18
3. Cut-through Traffic	40	30	0	1	0	9
4. Community Cohesion	26	1	0	21	0	4
5. Roadway Safety	22	3	1	9	1	8
6. Flooding	18	0	1	15	0	2
7. 4-5 Lane Roads Exist in Other Communities	15	12	0	0	0	3
8. Impact of Development	14	4	1	2	0	7
Busing in Northfield	8	3	0	3	0	2
Add Bike Lanes/Multi-Use Path	7	0	2	1	0	4
Need Interchange at Lake/I-294 or Dundee/I-94	7	1	0	6	0	0
Speeding Along Current Willow Road	6	0	1	4	0	1
Speeding Along Future Willow Road	5	0	0	4	0	1
Speeding Along Cut Through Roads	4	4	0	0	0	0
Road Diet	2	0	0	2	0	0
Logical Termini	2	0	0	2	0	0
Waste of Money*	66	0	3	47	1	15

*Not a Transportation Need comment.

Other Comments

Many other comment topics outside of the Community Context Audit and the Transportation Needs were made. There were a total of 247 comments received stating support or preference for improvement alternatives that have not yet been discussed as part of this study. Support for a 3-lane roadway improvement was submitted mostly from Northfield with 102 comments, while support for a 5-lane roadway improvement was submitted mostly from Glenview with 60 comments. The following table provides a summary of the comments received regarding support for either a 3-lane or 5-lane roadway.

	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other or unknown community
Support 3-Lane Roadway	129	1	5	102	0	21
Support 4/5-Lane Roadway	108	60	10	3	2	33
No-Build	10	3	0	6	0	1

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Aerial Exhibit Comments

The comments on the project aerial exhibits included transportation needs, suggested solutions, and statements of support for 3 or 5-lanes. Multiple comments were made about the lack of signed school zones along Willow Road and flooding that occurs in Northfield. Other comments noted the need for sidewalks and bike paths, and the need for left turn lanes at intersections along Willow Road. Comments made on the aerials of the study area were transcribed to a list and is available on the project website.

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