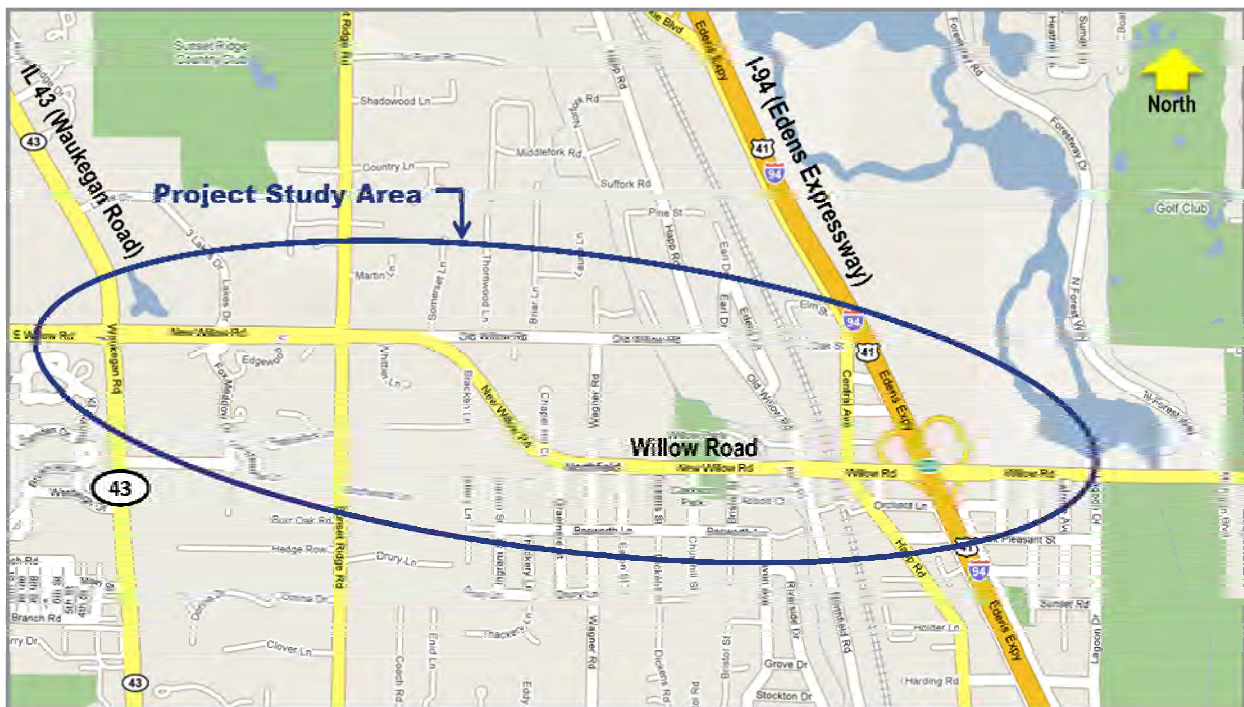




# Summary of Public Meeting #2

## Held May 16, 2011



July 21, 2011

Version 1.0

## **INTRODUCTION**

The second public meeting open house for the Willow Road Study was held in the main cafeteria of the New Trier High School Northfield Campus, Building C, from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting was to present the technical analyses completed for Willow Road Study planning process to date, display all local and regional alternatives, present the findings of the Round #1 evaluation of alternatives, and seek public input. The comments from this Public Meeting will be considered as part of the Alternative evaluation process, along with technical data.

## **NOTIFICATIONS**

Prior to the public meeting, display ads were published in two local newspapers to announce the public meeting and provide details. The publication dates were April 28 and May 12, 2011, two weeks and one week before the public meeting, respectively. The display ad was published by the Pioneer Press in the Glencoe News, Glenview Announcements, Northbrook Star and Winnetka Talk, and by the Chicago Tribune's TribLocal paper for Zones 11 and 13.

Invitation letters were mailed to elected officials and executive directors of public agencies. A project newsletter was mailed to community and public agency staff, CAG members and alternates, residents, and businesses along Willow Road within the study area. Copies of the newsletter and meeting postcards were also provided to the four communities within the project study area. The newsletter was provided for posting on each community's website.

The CAG was also informed of the Public Meeting at the CAG Meeting #9 on April 7, 2011. They were provided a brief overview of the format and information to be presented at the public meeting.

## **DAY OF THE MEETING**

Attendees were greeted at a registration table and provided a project brochure. The public meeting included a twelve 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 information about the planning process, crash analyses, Pedestrian Safety Toolbox and traffic analyses for current and 2040 traffic. Also provided were exhibits for each of the Local and Regional Alternatives and a summary of the Round #1 evaluation.

Two hundred four (204) people signed in at the public meeting, including several CAG members and alternates.

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

## **WHERE TO VIEW ALL PUBLIC MEETING #2 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](http://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. After the meeting, comments were received through the project website and through regular mail. All comments received were sorted by community and last name. They are also available on the project website.

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

### *General*

Two hundred and eighty-two (282) comments were received during the comment period. A summary of the comment format and which community they were received from are detailed in the table below. Of the total 282 comments received, the majority (68%) were received at the public meeting, either written on a comment form or dictated to a court reporter. Approximately 45% of all the comments received came from Northfield residents, 32% from Glenview residents, 11% from other or unknown residencies, and 9% from Northbrook residents.

	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Written Comment	124	40	16	59	5	3	1
E-Mailed Comment	89	29	6	24	3	26	1
Court Reporter	69	21	4	42	1	1	0
<b>Total Comments</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>

The comments received included a variety of concerns related to Safety, Community Cohesion, Crashes, a Pedestrian Safety Toolbox, Traffic, and the Environment. Some respondents also commented on their alternative preference.

### *Safety Comments*

Most of the comments that discussed safety were either concerned with the safety of neighborhood children due to traffic on Willow Road or with the traffic that avoids Willow Road and uses other streets.

Safety	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Child Safety	94	25	7	55	2	5	0
General Safety Concerns	63	16	8	31	1	7	0
Cut Through Traffic Avoiding Willow Rd	42	36	1	1	1	3	0
Speed Concerns	18	10	0	8	0	0	0
Bicyclist Safety	4	0	1	1	0	2	0

### *Community Cohesion and Context Comments*

The comments relating to community cohesion and context concerned the impact of any roadway improvement on the community and its context.

Community	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Loss of Community Cohesion	28	1	0	24	1	2	0
Context Needs More Emphasis	26	0	2	22	0	2	0
No Change in Community Cohesion	3	0	0	1	0	1	1

***Crash Comments***

Several residents commented on the crash exhibits provided at the public meeting and on their own experience with crashes along Willow Road.

Crashes	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Will increase and/or are a Problem	13	0	1	12	0	0	0
Have Involved Crossing Guards	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Are Not a Concern	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

***Pedestrian Safety Toolbox Comments***

Several residents commented on the items included in the Pedestrian Safety Toolbox exhibits provided at the public meeting.

Pedestrian Safety Toolbox	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Support a Pedestrian Underpass/Overpass at Willow and Clarkson Park	14	4	4	3	1	2	0
Support School Zones	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
Items Will Not Improve Pedestrian Safety	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Support HAWK Mid-Block Signals at Parks	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

***Traffic Comments***

Traffic and congestion is considered an issue by most of the residents in the surrounding communities. Some residents are concerned that increasing the capacity of Willow Road will draw more traffic to the area.

Traffic	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Congestion Is a Problem	72	44	11	6	2	9	0
Improvements Will Increase Traffic	16	0	1	15	0	0	0
Left Turning Vehicles Cause Congestion	9	1	0	6	1	1	0
I-94 (Edens) Is Cause of Willow Road Congestion	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
Recommend Reduction in Speed Limit	5	0	2	2	0	1	0
Congestion Is Not a Problem along Willow Rd	4	0	0	4	0	0	0
Narrow the Lanes To Control Speed	3	0	1	2	0	0	0

***Environmental Comments***

Comments relating to environmental issues were primarily reported by Northfield residents specifically concerning existing flooding, pollution, and potential for these conditions to worsen as a result of roadway improvements.

Environment	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Improvement Will Worsen Pollution	15	0	0	14	0	1	0
Improvement Will Worsen Noise	10	0	0	10	0	0	0
Improvement Will Worsen Flooding	10	0	0	9	0	1	0
Existing Congestion Causes Pollution	7	3	1	2	0	1	0
Improvement Will Not Worsen Pollution	2	0	0	1	0	1	0

***Alternative Preferences***

There were a total of 227 comments received stating support or a preference for one of the alternatives. The following table provides a summary of the alternative preferences by community. The majority of the support for a 2-lane roadway (including 2005 plan) was submitted by Northfield residents (74 of 83 comments). Support for a 4-lane roadway improvement was distributed among multiple communities with majority from Glenview residents (73 of 127 comments). Alternatives not shown below received less than 2 comments in support of that alternative.

Alternative Preference	Total	Glenview	Northbrook	Northfield	Winnetka	Other	Anonymous
Willow Rd 4-Lanes w/ Median	127	73	13	12	7	21	1
Willow Rd 2-Lanes w/ Median (Including 2005 Plan)	83	0	4	74	1	4	0
I-294 Interchange Improvements	6	0	2	4	0	0	0
I-94 Interchange Improvements	5	2	1	2	0	0	0
IL 68 (Dundee Rd) Widening 6-Lanes w/ Median	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Lake Ave Widening 6-Lanes w/ Median	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Do Nothing	2	0	1	1	0	0	0