

Willow Road Context-Sensitive Enhancement Plan

Community Workshop #1

September 19, 2007

Draft Core Design Principles

SAFETY

Provide new roadway solutions that are equal to or better than existing vehicular and pedestrian safety conditions.

TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES

Create, enhance and promote safe and secure new and future unified pedestrian and bicycle linkages, routes and crossings.

ACCESS POINTS

Provide safe traffic patterns and access to and from adjacent neighborhoods and businesses.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Reduce and improve environmental impacts through sound sustainable design and best management practices.

OPEN SPACE

Enhance area character through aesthetically pleasing landscape solutions and other "green" open space practices.

A CONTEXT SENSITIVE APPROACH

Build upon and more clearly define IDOT's definition and guiding principles for **Context Sensitive Solutions** to individual community character, roadway design and planning.

Study Area



Stakeholder Comments

Safety

- At schools/churches/key intersections
- Mid-block crossing points, especially at parks
- Reduce left-turners
- Increase sight distances
- Slower design speeds
- Reduce frustration/road rage
- Ramps on/off Edens
- Emergency response issues on Willow

Aesthetics

- Corridor not attractive
- Looks unfinished/derelict
- Lacks range of landscape color
- Keep character "quaint on the edges"
- Define edges better
- Consider raised/landscaped median
- More trees

Community Character

- Rural/wooded communities
- Family-oriented
- Actively involved/look out for each other
- High value on education
- Place where people can walk/bike to work/school
- Incredible police force
- Established/built-out
- Established business districts

Pedestrian Improvements

- Make more walkable to reduce vehicles
- Sidewalks needed on both sides of Willow
- Improved connections to all schools, parks and paths
- Improvements needed at bridges
- ADA requirements
- Improve intersection crossings
- Increased separation between roads and paths

Bicycle Improvements

- Preference for wide multi-purpose trail away from road
- General dislike for shared bike lanes in road
- Connection needed to proposed Skokie Valley Bike Trail
- Pull paths into parks and school campuses where possible
- Need bike racks
- Need improved signage

Critical Access Points

- All major intersections
 - Sunset Ridge
 - Wagner
 - Happ/Northfield/Central
 - Forestway
 - Hibbard
- Access on and off Edens
- Close off roads to keep safety high
- Restrict access at Walnut
- Bristol intersection needs more study

Open Space Enhancements

- Parks and landscape can be used to unify divide created by Willow Road
- Landscape/streetscape improvements needed, especially Downtown Northfield
- Parks need more parking and signage
- Some feel added elements/lighting unnecessary/liability

Previous Plan Comments

- Liked
 - Reduction in left-turns
 - Three-lanes allows for controlled left turns
 - Clean-up of edges
 - Cul-de-sacs/closed-off streets
 - Closing off Willow Road
- Disliked
 - Closing off Willow Road
 - Solution for Bristol Road

General Issues

- Northfield's "self-determination"
- Process an irritant/unnecessary
- Willow Road is Northfield's "Main Street"
- Quality of life must be preserved
- Northfield needs to be proactive/ not reactive
- Impact of Edens
- Capacity Concerns

General Opportunities

- Sewer/water improvements needed in Corridor
- Chance to create predictable traffic flow
- Can improve aesthetics through process
- Curb cuts could be reconfigured at key locations
- Study signal timing to improve flow

***NEXT WORKSHOP – WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17TH – 7:00 PM
AT THE NORTH SHORE SENIOR CENTER***

**SEND COMMENTS TO: willowroad@thelakotagroup.com
POWERPOINT AND HANDOUT AVAILABLE AT: www.thelakotagroup.com/willowroad**