

Willow Road Context-Sensitive Enhancement Plan

Community Workshop #2

October 17, 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



Workshop #1 Consistent Themes

- Liked landscape character along Willow from Waukegan to Sunset Ridge
- Reduction in lanes encourages passing on shoulder/bad driving
- Along S-curve (Sunset Ridge to Wagner) one to two turn lanes needed to reduce back-ups
- Liked pastoral aesthetics, encourages slower driving
- Liked shoulders to pull-over
- Liked sidewalks away from road, unless attractive barrier present
- The challenge of the project is to preserve the character of the road while addressing the increased traffic demand
- Support for closing Old Willow off from WillowCan trucks on Willow Road, which create noise and air pollution, be restricted
- Good residential character from Providence to Hibbard
- Edens on/off ramps
 - Back up
 - Bridge crossing dangerous and ugly
 - Cars come off ramps too fast
- Central/Happ/Northfield intersection problematic
 - Busses cut corner tight
 - Medians ugly
 - Trees in poor shape
 - Cars still moving fast from Edens
 - Intersection ugly
 - Time for pedestrian crossing too short
 - Missing cross-walks
- Any Willow improvements should be designed so there is no negative impact on the flood plain
- Additional parking needed for Willow Park
- Need cross-walk across Wagner on north side of Willow
 - Widen bridge over river
 - Skokie Valley Trail – under/overpass needed
 - Turn lanes needed at Sunset Ridge/Willow
 - Liked landscaped medians
 - New paving of Willow Road is needed for safety – too many potholes
 - Does Willow Road need to be four lanes in Winnetka?
 - Missing links and sidewalks need to be corrected
 - Willow should not be a Corridor through Northfield
 - Forestway improvements needed, potentially signalize?
 - Some preferred curbs over shoulders
 - Bike paths as part of a pedestrian path are preferred, include buffered landscaping
 - Big berms should be added where streets are made into cul-de-sacs
 - Like treating separate sections of Willow separately
 - Right-turn lane should start sooner for Willow/Hibbard intersection
 - Reduce opportunities for left turns off Willow
 - Create school zones on Willow Road to enforce slower speeds
 - Consider reducing access onto Edens from Willow?
 - Consider over-pass connecting Clarkson to Willow Park
 - Make Tower Road and full interchangePositive – Improvements will attract people, improve Village
 - Creating school zones critical because no speed zones currently exist
 - Address cell phone uses in Northfield, like Winnetka is
 - Other regional solutions should be studied, like alternate access to Edens

