

MEMO

October 18, 2007

TO: Willow Road Enhancement Steering Committee
FR: Scott Freres, Lakota
RE: **Workshop #2 Summary – Break-out Tables**

The following are the summaries of the break-out tables from the October 17, 2007 workshop. Comments were recorded at the workshop as each table reported back to the group. Additionally, the notes from each table's "recorder" were collected where possible, and these notes have been used to clarify and supplement each table's comments

Table 1 Comments

- Bridge to Robin Hood Lane is a good idea but is it practical/budget concerns?
- Underpass park connection
 - Concerned about flooding
 - Concern for height of road
- Like River Bridge concept, but the vehicular/pedestrian connection should be higher
- Main Street crossing timing needs to be sufficient length
- Bike trail underpass should be used for pedestrians too
- Liked cul-de-sac landscape treatment
- Sunset Ridge intersection
 - Left turns needed
 - Bollards great
 - Liked visual road markings
 - Disliked median
 - Additional trees a positive addition
 - Consider underpass at this location also
- Concerns on S-curve that access to drives and streets are maintained
- Differing opinions on width of lanes
- Loved idea of Edens ramp modifications
- Need to make sure Lagoon path is wide enough
- Concerned that an additional light at Forestway would cause back-ups
- Liked Winnetka Park concepts
- Liked textured surfacing in front of Crow Island
- Concerned that improvements in front of Crow Island would include road widening

Table 2 Comments

- Liked buffer zones between roads and pedestrians
- Liked islands, but prefer smaller and lower vegetation
- Liked underpass
- Don't think that Willow Road should be an arterial for communities outside of Winnetka/Northfield
- Need bike path on north side of Willow between Forestway and the Edens
- Need left turn lane east bound on Willow at Forestway
- Concern for width of road at schools with turn lanes
- Liked treatment of School zone with texture and visual changes
- Underpass at Sunset Ridge might be logistically difficult
- Concerned that improvements at intersections would increase crossing distance for kids

Table 3 Comments

- Safety major concern
 - Maintain existing safety
 - Enhance safety with buffers/bollards where possible
- Narrower lanes near schools a good idea
- Willow somewhat unsightly, needs to be improved, but at what cost?
- Liked bike path on the north side between Sunset Ridge and Wagner
- Thought underpass is interesting idea
 - What would be the cost to create and maintain
 - Concerns about bridge freezing
 - Flooding and water concerns
- Feel there is no need for pedestrian crossing at Forestway or walking path adjacent to golf course
- Concerned about tree removals that may be required by improvements
- Bosworth should not be connected to Northfield

Table 4 Comments

- Concerns that State may have issues with Edens changes
- Include pedestrian scale lighting for bike paths
- Concerns for maintenance of berms and new trees
 - How are they handled if they are on private properties
 - Will they cause increases in taxes
 - What would be the compensation for private owners if landscape located on their property

- School site crossings not logical as shown, they should have shorter crossing distances
- Concern for water/drainage at underpass
- How would graffiti and bad behavior in underpass be prevented
- How to control traffic on Bristol and Bosworth if traffic increases as streets are turned cul-de-sacs
- Left arrow needed at Sunset Ridge
- Keep bus shelter at Happ/Wagner
- Concerns that underpass at Skokie Valley Trail would be dark and damp
- On-ramp to southbound Edens needs to be addressed
 - Create a longer ramp
 - Create a ramp more perpendicular to Willow
- Would signal at Forestway/Willow create issues for emergency vehicles
- Concerned about costs of improvements

Table 5 Comments

- Plan should address regional problem of bottle-neck, might help get state funding
- Uses along Willow west of Northfield generate traffic, how much will it increase?
- Southbound access to Edens needs to be addressed and improved
- Consider split use signals to allow full pedestrian intersection crossing
- Liked having walks on both sides of Willow Road
- Differentiate intersections good, but keep maintenance minimal
- Need to improve conditions for bike traffic, and to accommodate increased bike traffic
- Narrower lanes good idea to slow traffic
- Liked medians that will block lights of oncoming traffic along the S-curve
- Mid-block crossings an issue from Wagner to Sunset Ridge
- Liked adding left turn lanes wherever possible
- Balance on left turn signals – change/balance timing
- Liked alternate connection to Robin Hood Lane, but will it be too expensive?
- Thought that if underpass flooded, weather would mean people would not be using anyhow
- Need engineering studies of how traffic flows would be affected by these concepts

Table 6 Comments

- Concerns with back access to Robin Hood
 - Might be difficult to execute
 - Could traffic cause a bottleneck on Happ?
- Concerns about maintenance issues, the Village needs to keep landscaping looking good
- Public transportation/buses need to be figured in
- Concerns about cost of improvements
- Liked textured paving and bollards for improved crossings at schools
- Positive reaction to underpass crossing at parks, but concerned about drainage

- Liked creating cul-de-sac on Churchhill, Dickens, and Eaton
- Thought single off ramp from Edens to Willow could work
- Thought Willow needed to stay four-lanes from Edens to Hibbard
- Liked how Edens improvements created better pedestrian/bicycle crossings

Table 7 Comments

- Do not want to see Bosworth opened to Northfield
- Need to make improvements so traffic from Edens does not back up onto Willow
- Concerns that changes to ramps would cause back-ups onto Edens
- Concerns of adding additional signalized intersections along corridor
- Mixed reaction to median at Sunset Ridge, might not create a safe zone
- Create back access to Bracken Lane so that it can be closed off from Willow
- Concerns for the cost and maintenance of added vegetation/landscaping
- Liked narrow lanes if they will actually slow traffic

Table 8 Comments

- Concern that there is not money available to accomplish plans
- Liked plans and visualization
- Thought signal at Forestway should be done as soon as possible
- Concerns for pedestrian safety around schools and parks
- Liked Willow Road off-ramp and signal
- Suggestion to block off streets close to the Edens ramps
- Liked underpass but concerned about drainage

Table 9 Comments

- Thought texture pavement and striping at Sunset Ridge was good and indicates a school zone
- Liked curved sidewalks and bollards
- Liked north side bike trail between Sunset Ridge and Willow Park
- Liked pedestrian/bicycle trail connections over Edens
- Concerns about medians
 - Placements critical for them to work
 - Should not be located at school intersections
- Concerns about more gravel, preferred curbs and gutters
- Excited about connection of two parks, even though it would be expensive proposal
- Liked narrow roads to slow traffic
- Thought Edens improvements with traffic light added an extra safety valve
- Thought additional signalized intersections increased safety, but timing was critical

- Did not like high median strips or vegetation
- Bridge over river needs textured median not striping, to create a barrier between oncoming lanes

Table 10 Comments

- Liked creation of cul-de-sacs between Wagner and Bristol
- Liked alternate route to Robin Hood lane through Willowview
- Thought additional parking on Bristol for Willow Park would be a good addition
- Skeptical of underpass/bridge
 - Liked concept
 - Concerned without full funding it will become ugly/dark
- Concern about amount of space raised medians will take up
- Concerned that raised medians will cause people to drive faster
- Liked pedestrian/bicycle enhancements over Edens
- Liked the consolidation of Edens off-ramps
- Thought the Edens on-ramp needs to be addressed also
- Concerned about impacts of additional signalized intersections
- Concerned about impact of any audible component of countdown timers
- Cross-walks needed on all four sides of Wagner/Willow intersection
- Thought flashing lights needed for school zones
- Thought decorative intersection pattern should be selectively used to insure proper maintenance
- Concerned that texture pavements or rumble strips would create too much noise
- Concerned about maintenance and survivability of planted medians
- Thought reflective elements needed on railings
- Liked decorative pedestrian lights
- Concerns for funding of Skokie Valley underpass, especially because trail does not exist