

2019/2020 Local Technical Assistance and Community Planning Programs

Application Number: 12

Project Title: City of Chicago Beverly/Morgan Park Neighborhood Plan

Applicant: City of Chicago - Beverly Area Planning Association



Project Description:

Key Issue

The community's perspective is the Beverly / Morgan Park commercial corridors on 95th Street and Western Ave. along with the multiple Metra train depot commercial districts don't fully reflect the overall quality and character of the broader historic district, unique housing stock, and community vitality.

Objective:

The Beverly / Morgan Park community would like assistance developing a longer term vision for the commercial districts through the assistance of a comprehensive community wide corridor study and master plan

Key Areas of Study:

A vision for attracting new businesses and new development in particular assistance on

- what types of businesses to recruit to our community,
- what are ideal or specific locations for these respective businesses to target in our community to spur economic growth,
- what are ideal or specific locations to target in our community for recruiting new development options,
- what are strategies to enhance economic activity in and around the community's core transportation hubs in particular in and around the multiple vacant Metra stations,
- the majority of the community's commercial corridors and Metra train station districts are "dry" or do not allow liquor/beer sales how might changes in alcohol rules impact attracting new businesses or new development in a positive or negative way. How can communities like Beverly / Morgan Park best proceed in implementing new strategies around a strategic approach to liquor licenses and alcohol sales?

Transportation

- Assess traffic flows on major corridors within the study area boundaries in particular the traffic flows impacted by cul de sacs and traffic diverters originally installed during 1995 along 95th street and between 95th & western and 91st & western. Since then, major commercial developments have occurred along both 95th and Western, and new traffic patterns and habits have evolved. These issues also exacerbate safety for young students who walk to and from two local neighborhood elementary schools.
- improve walkability of main corridors on 95th Street and Western Ave.[also part of enhancing public spaces along corridors]
- improve bike-ability through strategies and plans to connect main Commercial Corridors, residential areas, and Metra / CTA stops with bike access

Enhancing Public Spaces along Commercial Corridors and Metra train depot areas

- Assistance with selecting locations and developing a strategy for utilizing open spaces or vacant space for temporary or permanent community spaces including pop-up performances, parklets, pop-up art, pop-up gathering spaces etc.

Beautification of Commercial Corridors and Metra train depot areas

- Developing and implementing strategies for limiting the negative impacts on corridors from vacant buildings or vacant lots, large billboards, inconsistent business signage or facades etc.

Project Location: Beverly Hills/Morgan Park Neighborhood - Bound on the north by 87th street, on the south by 119th street, on the east by Vincennes Ave, and on the west by California and Western.