EVANSTON ILLINOIS

Emerson/ Ridge/ Green Bay Improvement Project

Sat Nagar, P.E.
Assistant Director of Engineering & Infrastructure

February 23, 2015
EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Out dated traffic signal equipment
- 130 vehicle/vehicle conflict points
- Difficult for pedestrian and transit access
- Unattractive viaduct aesthetics
- Inadequate lighting
- Minimal streetscape/green space
PROJECT GOALS

• Enhance pedestrian safety and access
• Reduce Conflicts by simplifying travel patterns & lane usage
• Modernize and coordinate traffic signals to improve operation and level of service
• Eliminate elevation difference between Ridge & Green Bay travel lanes
• Improve viaduct aesthetics, enhance lighting/ streetscape and create gateway to downtown
• Green Bay corridor improvements considering economic development and pedestrian safety
• Improve transit access
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONSULTANTS

Alderman Don Wilson
Alderman Peter Braithwaite
Larry Biondi  Pedestrian/Accessibility - Progress Center
Natalie Watson  Evanston 150
Eric Santiago  Downtown Evanston
Greg Klaiber  Fire Chief
Andrew McCgonigle  Northwestern University
Elaine Kemma-Irish  Evanston Chamber of Commerce
Tom Blanchard  Local Resident/Condo Board President
ESI Consultants  Primary Consultant
Kettelkamp & Kettelkamp  Landscape Architects
Morreale Associates  Community Engagement
## PROJECT MEETINGS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 2, 2014</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Public Meeting (Fleetwood-Jordain)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2, 2014</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Advisor Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>September 17, 2014</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Advisor Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>September 18, 2014</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Ward Meeting (Fleetwood-Jordain)</td>
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<td>October 29, 2014</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Public Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn)</td>
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<td>December 10, 2014</td>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Ward Meeting (Ecology Center)</td>
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<td>February 3, 2015</td>
<td>Meeting with 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; and 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Ward Aldermen</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11, 2015</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Public Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn)</td>
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## WEB SURVEY

PROJECT WEB SITE – UPDATED REGULARLY

[www.emersonridge.com](http://www.emersonridge.com)
PUBLIC WORKS

CUL-DE-SAC OPTION

SURVEY RESULTS

Note: 10 represents the most preferred, total respondents 480
SURVEY RESULTS

ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND OPTION

Note: 10 represents the most preferred, total respondents 480
Public Works

3-LANE ROAD WAY OPTION

Note: 10 represents the most preferred, total respondents 480
Note: 10 represents the most preferred, total respondents 480
All Green Bay thru traffic will have to use Asbury/Emerson

**Option Eliminated from Further Consideration**
- Dramatic and confusing changes to travel patterns
- Isolates businesses
- Reduces the most parking spaces
- Lease preferred option
ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND OPTION

Green Bay north of Emerson to Asbury is closed to southbound traffic. Southbound traffic will use Asbury/Emerson

**Impacts**
- Net loss to parking 8 spaces
- Improves overall level of service
- Reduces conflict points (from 130 to 74)
- Improves pedestrian crossing & visibility

**Opportunities Along Green Bay**
- Provides more plaza space for art, landscape and/or seating
- Provides more on-street parking along the corridor
3-LANE ROAD WAY OPTION

One lane each in northbound and southbound direction and left turn lanes from Green Bay to Emerson in both directions

**Impacts**
- Net loss to parking 4 spaces
- Improves overall level of service
- Reduces conflict points from 130 to 77
- Improves pedestrian crossings

**Opportunities Along Green Bay**
- Provides direct access to downtown by providing a separate left turn lane

Note: This option appears to be most appealing based on feedback at community meetings and survey results
One thru lane in each direction and left turn lanes at intersections/driveways (Asbury to McCormick)

**Opportunities**

- Provides additional green space/streetscape area
- Provides bus pull-out areas (better visibility for pedestrians)
- Improves pedestrian crossings (shorter crossing and better visibility)
- Safer for vehicles due to better defined lane usage (typically less side-swipe and rear end crashes)
- Enhance pedestrian access (wider sidewalks on west side)
LANDSCAPE & STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

- Widened sidewalk and expanded parkways
- Embankment & street tree plantings
- Monument Signage at McCormick
- Plaza spaces and site furniture
- Emerson/Ridge Bridge improvements

LANDSCAPE GOALS

- Identity
- Beautification
- Functionality
- Safety
LANDSCAPE & STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

- Preserves existing healthy trees
- Graphically Bold - Dynamic Drifting Pattern
- 4 Seasons of Interest
- Sustainable & easily maintained
- Refined & memorable

SECTION THROUGH CORRIDOR

ELEVATION OF RAILWAY EMBANKMENT ALONG GREEN BAY ROAD
LANDSCAPE & STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

• 20 year old stonework restored
• Monument sign visually connects with Isabella Gateway
• Potential location for Community Event announcements
• Signage lighting increases visibility
• Activate intersections along corridor
• Distinctive furniture palette reinforces identity
**LANDSCAPE & STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS**

**BRIDGE ENHANCEMENTS**

- Clean-up and celebrate 1930’s era bridge structure
- Subway tiled walls
- Creative lighting for safety

Existing bridge at Emerson & Ridge:
Abutments, Columns & Underside
NEXT STEPS

Spring 2015
  •  IDOT Design Approval

Summer/Fall 2015
  •  Finalize Design Details and Complete Construction Plans

FY 2016
  •  Project Bid: January
  •  Construction: April - October