



MASON PARK EXPANSION + CHURCH/DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE Meeting #3

September 24, 2024 | Evanston Township High School | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

The purpose of the Community Open House was to present community feedback received from Public Meeting #1 (4/10/24) and Public Meeting #2 (7/9/24) and (2) Community Surveys. Based on public feedback, (1) Draft Mason Park and Church / Dodge Transportation Improvement Concept Plan was presented for community review and feedback.

Prior to the meeting, announcements were distributed via the following methods:

1. Project information and meeting announcements uploaded to the City of Evanston project website: www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge
2. Printed flyers were posted in Mason Park and Gibbs Morrison Cultural Center.
3. Emailed digital announcements were provided to Evanston Township High School (ETHS), Youth Opportunity United (Y.O.U.), the 2nd Ward Offices and to all survey respondents who provided email addresses (approximately 350 individuals).
4. Printed flyers were mailed to approximately 561 households surrounding Mason Park.

Approximately 40 people attended the Public Open House.

During the Public Open House meeting, Council Member Harris and Stefanie Levine presented the public materials via Zoom to approximately 30 residents.

MASON PARK EXPANSION AND CHURCH/DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #3

BIG THANKS to everyone who participated in
(2) community surveys and (2) public meetings.

JOIN US to review outcomes of the public feedback.
Review and provide comment on the concept plan!

RECONNECTING WEST EVANSTON

Tuesday, September 24th

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Evanston Township High School (ETHS)

1600 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, Room N112

Enter the Building at Entrance #1, located in front of ETHS on Dodge Ave

Parking is available along Dodge Ave and in Parking Lot #1 (accessed from Dodge Ave)

*For more information, please visit the
project webpage at the link below or
scan the QR code with your smart device*

www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge



Meeting announcement flyer

MEETING EXHIBITS

The exhibits presented existing conditions, summarized community survey results, and presented one draft concept for public review and feedback. Participants were provided post-it notes to provide comments about the concepts presented on the exhibit boards.

A list of meeting exhibits presented during the meeting follows below:

1. Project Introduction
2. Community Survey #1 Summary of Responses (*Survey Dates 2/15 – 3/15, 2024*)
3. Community Survey #2 Summary of Responses (*Survey Dates 7/25 – 8/23, 2024*)
4. Public Meeting #1 Key Takeaways
5. Public Meeting #2 Key Takeaways
6. Existing Conditions, Map
7. Existing Conditions, Site Photos
8. Site Sections, Existing and Proposed
9. Preferred Concept Plan, Ecology + Adventure, Plan
10. Preferred Concept Plan, Ecology + Adventure, Model Views
11. Preferred Concept Plan, Ecology + Adventure, Photo Imagery
12. Connections to the Evanston Bike Network
13. Church – Dodge Intersection Concept Plan
14. Input Activity Exhibits (*voting activities and open ended inputs*)

A summary of open-ended comments received are organized by exhibit board on the following pages:

PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN | Ecology + Adventure



INPUT ACTIVITY:
USE THE POST-IT
NOTES TO ADD YOUR
COMMENTS

Revised ~~Intersection?~~
Signs don't stop
cars

What is
recommended
bike way
from Church
south?

Bridge:
separate ped path
places for dogs +
babies
places for adults
to have parkour

Davis St is
pretty narrow.
How much space
for safe bike
traffic? How to
make it safer?

Glad to see
naturalized areas.
Need more in Evanston.
Not sure encouraged
foraging is good for
Evanston green
areas, encourages
damage.

Good to have
food forests (for)
public, but
foraging needs
managing, not
open garbage.

Foraging near
ETHS? Asking
for teenage foolishness
and people stealing
from Edible Acre just
up the street.

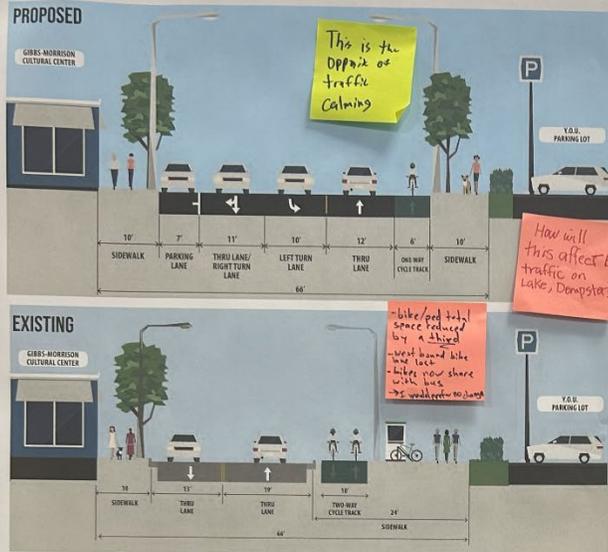
How will
water be controlled
here? To avoid more
water for Lake
properties.

COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Davis St is pretty narrow. How much space for safe bike traffic? How to make it safer?
2. What is recommended bikeway from Church south?
3. Raised intersection? Signs don't stop cars
4. Provide separate ped path; places for dogs and babies; places for adults to have parkour
5. Glad to see naturalized areas. Need more in Evanston. Not sure encouraged foraging is good for Evanston green areas, encourages damage.
6. Good to have food forests (for) public, but foraging needs managing, not open garbage
7. Foraging near ETHS? Asking for teenage foolishness and people stealing from Edible Acre just up the street
8. How will water be controlled here (Lake St / Dodge Ave) to avoid more water for Lake (St) properties.

SITE SECTIONS | EXISTING + PROPOSED

SECTION 1: CHURCH STREET EAST OF DODGE AVENUE, LOOKING EAST



SECTION 2: EMBANKMENT BETWEEN EAST / WEST DAVIS STREET, LOOKING SOUTH



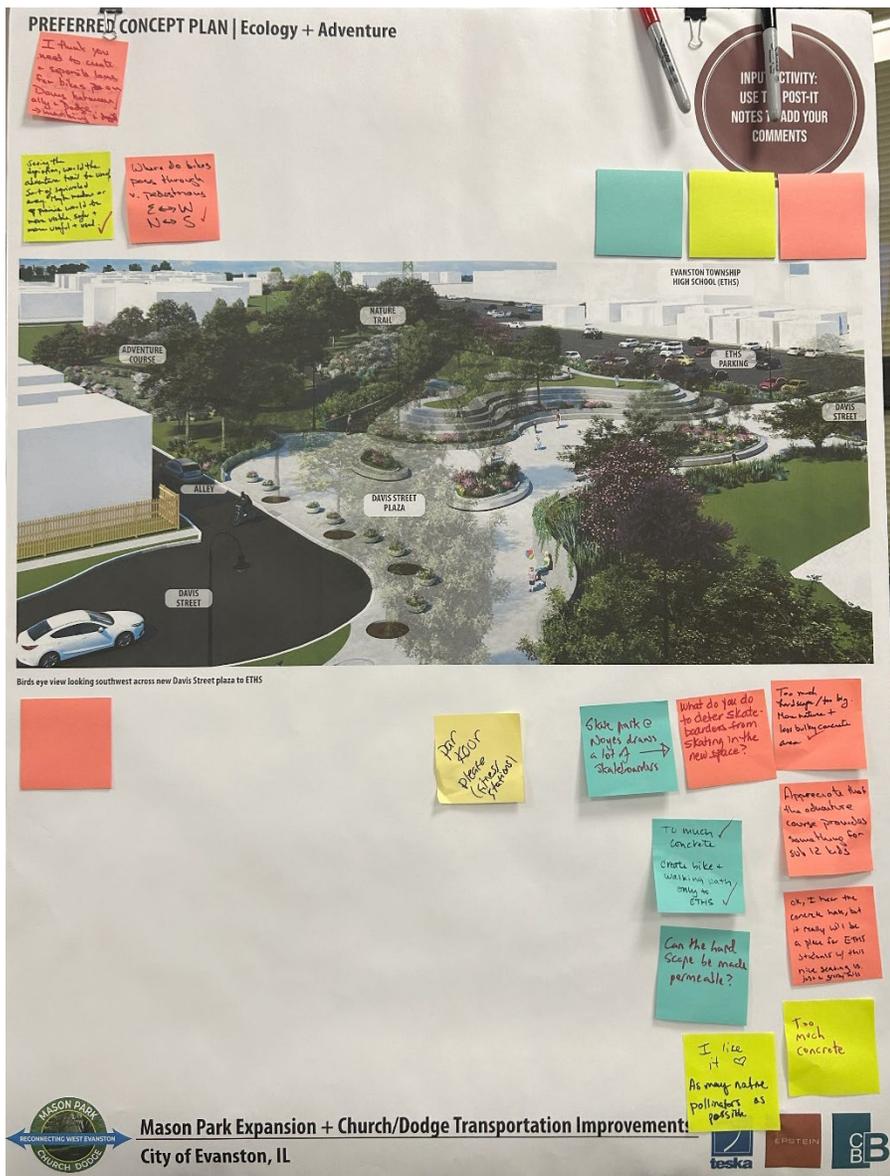
COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

CHURCH STREET EAST OF DODGE AVENUE LOOKING EAST

1. This is the opposite of traffic calming
2. How will this affect east traffic on Lake, Dempster?
3. Bike / ped total space reduced by a third; westbound bike lane lost; bikers now share with bus; I would prefer no change.

EMBANKMENT BETWEEN EAST / WEST DAVIS STREET, LOOKING SOUTH

1. Too much hardscape
2. Hardscape great for ETHS classes to get outside and for students to be outdoors after school
3. Why change green space to concrete?



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Too much hardscape / too big. More nature and less bulky concrete area.
2. Appreciate that the adventure course provides something for sub 12 kids.
3. Ok, I hear the concrete hate, but it really will be a place for ETHS students with this nice seating vs. just a grassy hill.
4. Too much concrete.
5. What do you do to deter skateboarders from skating in the new space?
6. Skate Park at Noyes draws a lot of skateboarders
7. Too much concrete; create bike and walking path only to ETHS.
8. Can the hardscape be made permeable?
9. I like it; As many nature pollinators as possible.
10. Parkour please (fitness stations)
11. I think you need to create a separate lane for bikes on Davis between Alley and Dodge (markings)
12. Where do bikes pass through versus pedestrians (E-W and N-S)
13. Seeing the depiction, would the adventure trail be used? Sort of squirreled away. Maybe meadow or prairie would be more visible, safer and more useful and used.

PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN | Ecology + Adventure

POST-IT ACTIVITY:
USE THE POST-IT
NOTES TO ADD YOUR
COMMENTS



View looking west through Davis Street plaza to ETHS

How much of the hardscape will be permeable surface?

Less hardscape for leading into neighborhood; add something to existing park



View looking east through Davis Street plaza to Mason Park and neighborhood

Agree with no more hardscape.

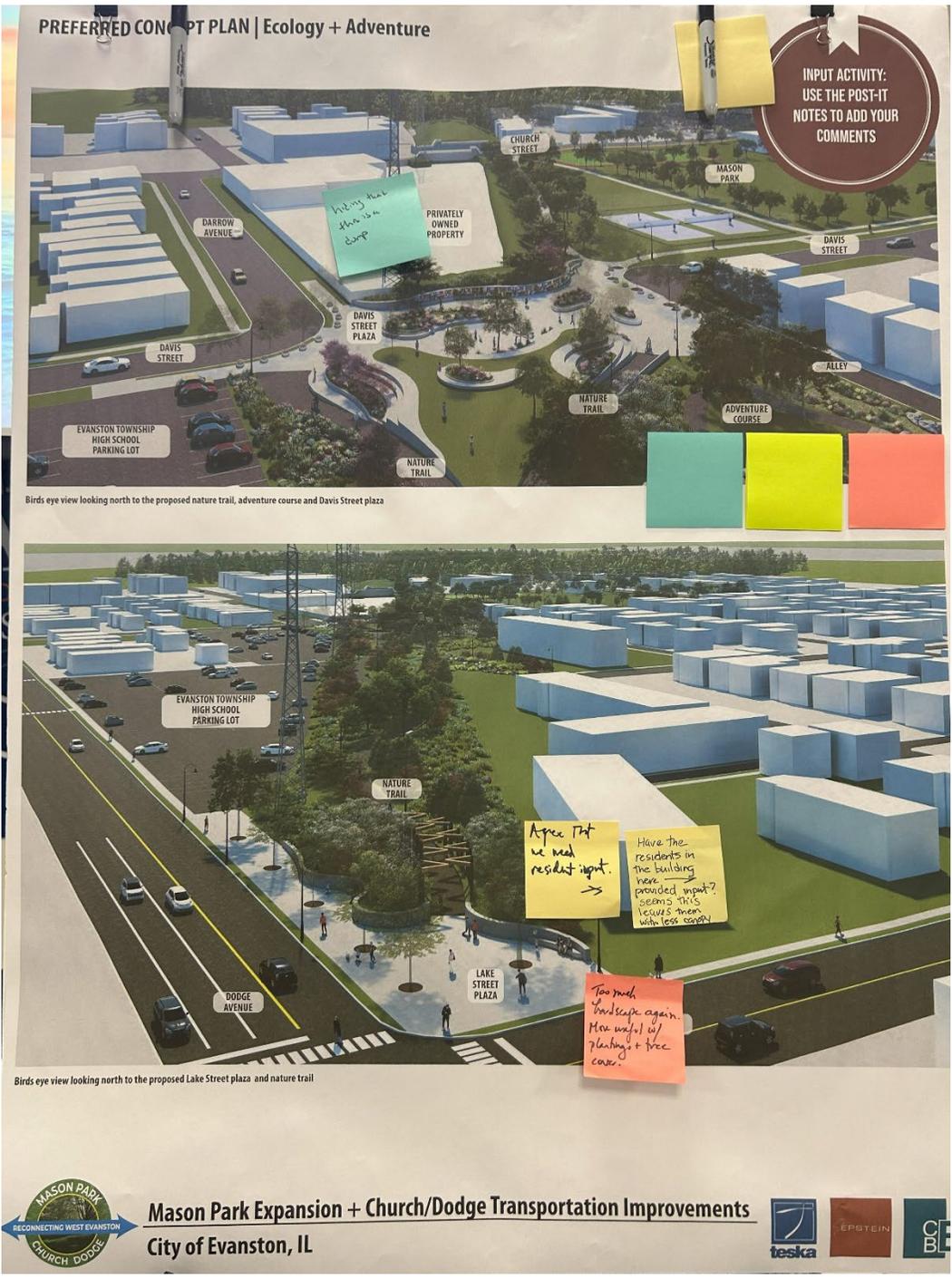


Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. How much of the hardscape will be permeable surface?
2. Less hardscape for leading into neighborhood; add something to existing park.



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Hiding that this is a dump (at privately owned property north of Davis St Plaza)
2. Too much hardscape again. More useful with plantings and tree cover.
3. Have the residents in the building here (adjacent to Lake Street Plaza) provided input? Seems this leaves them with less canopy.
4. Agree that we need resident input.

CONNECTIONS TO THE EVANSTON BIKE NETWORK

LEGEND

-  Divvy Bike Location
-  Protected Bike Lane
-  Bike Lane
-  Bike Route
-  Off-Street Bike Path
-  Main Road
-  Local Street
-  Railroad
-  Water
-  Park
-  City Boundary

EXISTING BIKE NETWORK AND GAP FOR WESTBOUND CYCLISTS ALONG CHURCH STREET



PROPOSED BIKE NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS ACCOMMODATE WESTBOUND CYCLISTS AT DAVIS STREET AND EASTBOUND CYCLISTS AT CHURCH STREET



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
 City of Evanston, IL



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Bike Lanes on Church aren't protected until Maple
2. This will become bike path by default (SW corner of Church St / Dodge Ave)

CHURCH + DODGE INTERSECTION CONCEPT PLAN

PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN

INPUT ACTIVITY: USE THE POST-IT NOTES TO ADD YOUR COMMENTS

EXISTING CONDITIONS

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REGARDING CHURCH + DODGE INTERSECTION

CONCERNS

- Flexible bollards do not provide enough protection.
- No clear and safe way to navigate between Davis and Church Street westbound bike lanes.
- Eastbound buses block bike lanes and car traffic.
- Construction and reduced parking may impact businesses.
- Concepts do not provide clear and safe bike route to and around ETHS.
- Cost and taxpayer commitments.

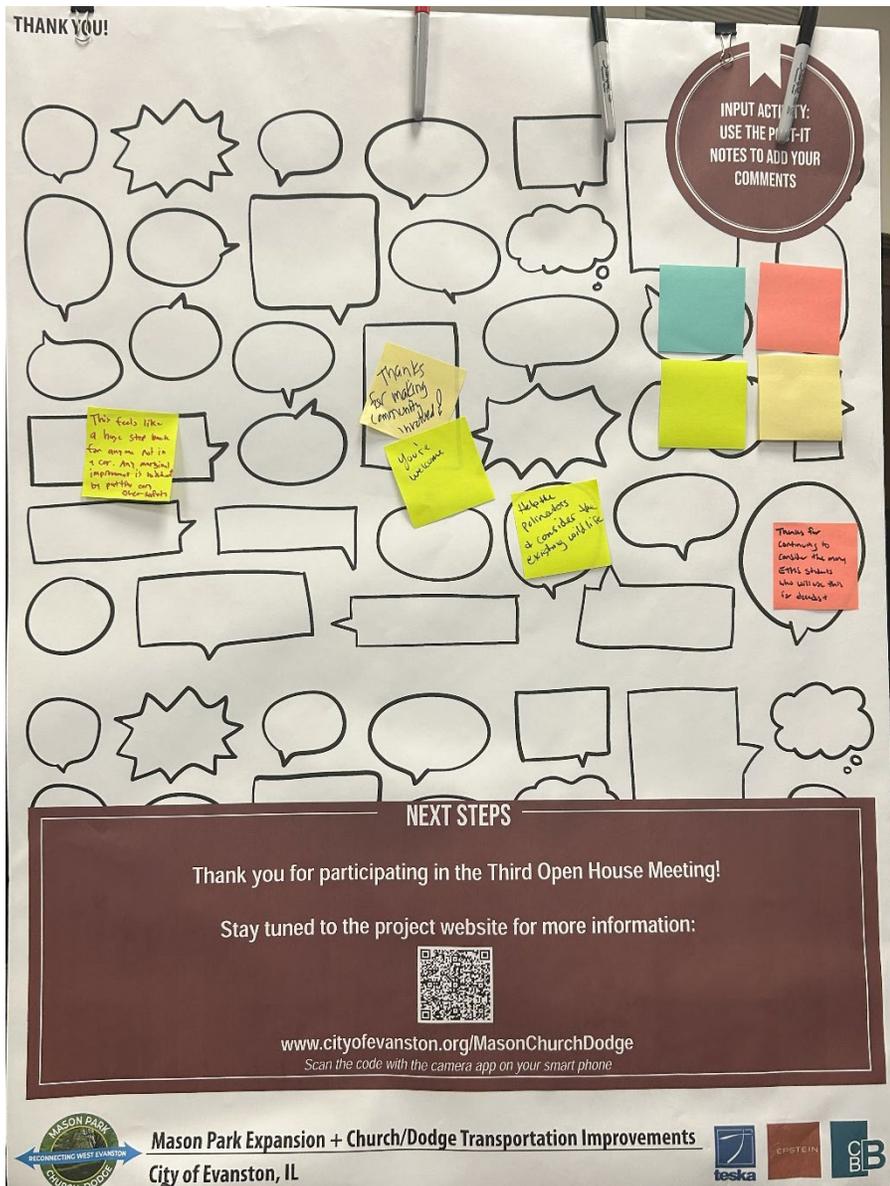
DESIRES

- Provide dedicated left turn lanes at the intersection.
- Provide curb protected bike lanes (similar to Sheridan Road) instead of flexible bollards.
- Create well-connected, defined, and safe bike facilities.
- Consider removing parking to prioritize bikes and buses and improve vehicle traffic flow.
- Consider maintaining parking to support businesses.
- Maintain westbound biking along Church - (Participants may not understand the westbound bike route would move to Davis St).
- Address biker and pedestrian safety to and from ETHS.
- Balance bike improvements with costs.

PROPOSED PROTECTED EASTBOUND BIKE LANE FOR CHURCH STREET, EAST OF DODGE AVENUE (SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD)

COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. The street is 25% wider here (not including the bike lane on street level). We should be narrowing streets in front of schools and prioritizing bike, pedestrian and bus infrastructure.
2. Pinch point for cyclists at NE leg. Should remove parking up to alley.
3. ADA ramp to nowhere. Crosswalk? (NW corner of Church St / Darrow Ave)
4. Cycletrack on curb protected is safer for cyclists.
5. Bus stop shelters? Divvy rack?
6. Put westbound cyclists on west side of Dodge so they can keep going without having to make dangerous left at intersection – but cycletrack not sidewalk
7. This helps students coming from the east, but not from the north or south who need it more.
8. Agreed! Can bike paths be extended north and west (to channel)?



COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA POST-IT NOTES:

1. Thanks for continuing to consider the many ETHS students who will use this for decades +
2. This feels like a huge step back for anyone not in a car. Any marginal improvement is hidden by putting cars over safety.
3. Help the pollinators and consider the existing wildlife
4. Thanks for making community involved!

The meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.

MEETING PHOTOS:

