

# Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements

Church Street, Dodge Avenue to North Shore Channel

North-South Corridor, Harbert Park to Beck Park

## Public Information Meeting #2 Meeting Summary

A second Public Information Meeting was held for the Church Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Phase I Study on September 9, 2025 from 4:30 P.M to 7:30 P.M. at the Evanston Township High School (1600 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, IL). Invitation flyers were mailed to residents and business owners within the project area, and invites were emailed to City stakeholders, community partners, and attendees of the first Public Information Meeting. In addition, invitation flyers were posted within Evanston Township High School to encourage student attendance. Notifications were posted in the Chicago Sun Times on August 25<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup>, 15 and 5 days before the meeting, respectively.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the proposed improvement and to seek public comments regarding the project.

The proposed improvement plan includes providing an on-street barrier separated bike lane along the south side of Church Street between McDaniel Avenue and Dodge Avenue, resurfacing the south side of Church Street within the same limits, and providing a north-south shared-use trail between Harbert Park and Church Street, including a new underbridge connection at Dempster Street. The pedestrian and bicycle improvements will meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Temporary easements are required in some locations to accommodate proposed grading, and permanent easements are required in some locations to accommodate the proposed north-south trail.

The meeting was conducted in an open-house format with exhibits on display and City/project team staff available to discuss the project and answer questions. A total of 40 attendees recorded their names on the attendance register, not including the public agency representatives. Public officials and staff who attended the meeting are listed below:

- Krissie Harris – 2nd Ward Councilmember
- Rajeev Dahal – (former) Project Manager, City of Evanston
- Chris Sous – (current) Project Manager, City of Evanston

Comment forms were available at the meeting. Comments could also be submitted to City staff for the two-week period following the meeting. In total, 21 written comments were received during or following the meeting. The following is a summary of comments received or discussed verbally during the meeting. All comments and this meeting summary have become part of the public record and will be included in the study's final documentation.

- The majority of comments are in support of the proposed improvement plan, particularly for expanding the bike network and making bike travel safer.

- Some comments to improve the bike network connectivity to the west across the Church Street bridge over the North Shore Channel (outside current project limits).
- Some requests to provide further bike connections and infrastructure improvements outside of the current project limits.
- Some suggestions to consider removing parking spaces at the east end of the project to keep bike lanes on-street west of Dodge.
- Some suggestions for more corner bumpout locations, crosswalk locations, elevated crosswalks, and/or enhanced crosswalks throughout the corridor. Some concerns regarding sidewalk conditions and requests for improvements.
- Some concerns with impacts to traffic flow on Church Street.
- Some comments suggesting the bike facility should be on Lake Street instead.
- Some comments regarding reducing the speed limit and/or enforcing vehicle and bike laws along Church Street in both the existing and proposed conditions. Also, a concern regarding bicyclists using the sidewalks, and bike speed in general.
- A concern regarding gaps in the proposed concrete bike lane separator.
- A question regarding the proposed traffic signal at Church Street/Pitner Avenue.
- A concern regarding the length, height, and openings in the proposed fence along the proposed north-south trail.
- A concern regarding connectivity for ETHS bicyclists coming from the east and ability to reach the bike parking area at ETHS.
- A concern suggesting the City should discontinue building bike lanes and paths.

City staff and project team members provided verbal responses to questions and comments provided during the meeting and sent this summary and responses to all commenters who provided e-mail contact information.