

PUBLICITY RELEASE - For Winnetka Talk – Oct. 11

October 8, 2007

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Northfield, IL--

Willow Road Steering Committee Reaches Out to Winnetka and Northfield Residents for Input at Second Workshop October 17 at the NSSC

The Willow Road Steering Committee will host the second of three Community Workshops for Winnetka and Northfield residents at 7:00 p.m. on October 17 at the North Shore Senior Center. Guided by the urban design and planning company The Lakota Group, Inc., participants will again engage in planning exercises and small group conversations focused on developing a shared vision of how to enhance Willow Road between Waukegan Road and Provident Road in Winnetka.

This community process is part of an important new Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) approach to roadway design called "Context Sensitive Solutions" (CSS) which gives greater weight to the impact road design and planning have on maintaining and enhancing community character and quality of life. At the September workshop over 100 participants worked thoughtfully and productively to describe what that context should be, considering core principles such as safety, transportation linkages, access points, environmental context and open space in relationship to issues such as pedestrian and bicycle paths, road edge and road median character, and landscape enhancements.

This second workshop will review what was learned in September and develop a range of alternative solutions to achieve the core design goals in a way that is sensitive to the community character along Willow Road.

The final community workshop, scheduled for late November, will explore specific alternative plans for implementing these desired community character goals and solutions into the context of an improved roadway design, seeking a balance between safe traffic mobility and capacity concerns for the region while also protecting and enhancing the quality of life issues of Northfield and Winnetka.

The Steering Committee will then further review the alternative roadway enhancement plans, develop preferred consensus plans and present them to each community's Village Board in December with the expectation that a consensus plan direction can be carried forward by the Villages and Senator Schoenberg to discuss with IDOT representatives after the first of the year.

For more information on Willow Road Steering Committee, upcoming meeting dates and locations log onto the Villages' websites at <http://www.northfieldil.org/Lakota.htm> and <http://www.villageofwinnetka.net/>

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