

MEMO

October 4, 2007

TO: Willow Road Enhancement Steering Committee
FR: Scott Freres, Lakota
RE: **Workshop #1 Summary – Break-out Tables**

The following are the summaries of the break-out tables from the September 19, 2007 workshop. Comments were recorded at the workshop as each table reported back to the group. Additionally, the notes from each table's "recorder" were collected where possible, and these notes have been used to clarify and supplement each table's comments

Table 1 Comments

- Intersection problems at Sunset Ridge, Wagner, and Forestway. Out-dated, better signals and turn-lanes needed
- Willow from Waukegan to Sunset Ridge is busy , fast and dangerous
- Reduction in lanes encourages passing on shoulder/bad driving
- Crossing Edens on foot dangerous/uncomfortable
- Hard to see how underpasses/overpasses could work
 - Maybe overpasses because they are more visible
 - Crossing guard could watch underpass
- Along S-curve (Sunset Ridge to Wagner) one to two turn lanes needed to reduce back-ups
- Liked pastoral aesthetics, encourages slower driving
- Liked shoulders to pull-over
- Liked sidewalks away from road, unless attractive barrier present
- Winnetka Road needs to be studied because it gets Willow Road overflow
- Northfield Road crossing needs work – hard for pedestrians
- The challenge of the project is to preserve the character of the road while addressing the increased traffic demand
- Idea to make segments of Willow and Old Willow one-way in opposite directions
- Support for closing Old Willow off from Willow
- Back-up on Edens affects Willow Road, and needs to be addressed

Table 2 Comments

- Can trucks on Willow Road, which create noise and air pollution, be restricted
- Liked landscape character along Willow from Waukegan to Sunset Ridge
- Good residential character from Providence to Hibbard
- Hibbard to Forest Preserve has a pleasant native look
- Edens on/off ramps
 - Back up
 - Bridge crossing dangerous and ugly
 - Cars come off ramps too fast
- Central/Happ/Northfield intersection problematic
 - Busses cut corner tight
 - Medians ugly
 - Trees in poor shape
 - Cars still moving fast from Edens
 - Intersection ugly
 - Time for pedestrian crossing too short
 - Missing cross-walks
- Willow/Old Willow should be closed/bermed off
- Off-set intersection of Bristol a problem
- Any Willow improvements should be designed so there is no negative impact on the flood plain
- Additional parking needed for Willow Park
- Wagner/Willow people speed through intersection and run light
- Sunset Ridge/Willow also a dangerous intersection
- Willow should look more like Elm in Winnetka
- Road divide town

Table 3 Comments

- Greatest positive would be 3-lane or less solution with sewer improvements, sidewalk improvements, landscape enhancements
- At Sunset Ridge turn-arrows and pedestrian under/overpass would improve intersection
- Need cross-walk across Wagner on north side of Willow
- Edens has too short an on-ramp, causes back-ups
- Keep Willow/Old Willow open
- Widen bridge over river
- Signage needed for Clarkson/Willow park crossing
- Safer bike crossing needed over Edens
- Dominicks/Walgreens crossing – lights too short, undefined cross-walks
- Skokie Valley Trail – under/overpass needed
- Right turn lane needed at Sunset Ridge/Willow
- Liked landscaped medians
- Extend Bosworth Road to Northfield

Table 4 Comments

- New paving of Willow Road is needed for safety – too many potholes
- Planted medians nice – as long as pedestrian crossings are made safer
- Crossing needed at Clarkson Park
- Turn arrows at intersections would help
- Cutting off Old Willow may add traffic on Wagner
- S curve improvements – consider “mini-frontage road” to get access for residents
- Will more lanes still back up at Edens?
- Does Willow Road need to be four lanes in Winnetka?
- Student safety a priority
- Crossing of pedestrians at Edens
- Missing links and sidewalks need to be corrected
- Traffic lights that stop all directions for pedestrians to cross intersection?
- Willow should not be a Corridor through Northfield
- Northfield/Winnetka needs to develop its own solution and not let other communities make the decision

Table 5 Comments

- Bridge over river needs fixing/widening
- Sidewalk along north side of Willow needed
- Sidewalks east of Edens are too close to road to be comfortable
- Forestway improvements needed, potentially signalize?
- Turn arrows at Sunset Ridge and Wagner needed
- Curbs are preferred over shoulders
- Bike paths as part of a pedestrian path are preferred, include buffered landscaping
- Positive – sidewalks on both sides
- Negative – anything that increases speeds

Table 6 Comments

- Big berms should be added where streets are made into cul-de-sacs
- Wide/open underpass would be good
- Separation needed of sidewalks from streets
- Bikes/pedestrians/cars need to be divided/separated into separate lanes
- Light should not be tripped from inside cross-walk at intersections
- Like treating separate sections of Willow separately
- Create winding road behind Crow Island to absorb school traffic and take it off of Willow
- Right-turn lane should start sooner for Willow/Hibbard intersection

- Reduce opportunities for left turns off Willow
- Create lanes for cars to by-pass left-turners
- Forestway needs left turn lane for westbound traffic
- Relocate schools off of Willow Road corridor to eliminate conflicts?
- Create school zones on Willow Road to enforce slower speeds
- Right turn lane at sunset ridge (east bound) need right turn lane
- Consider xpanding flow onto Edens to reduce back-ups
- Consider reducing access onto Edens from Willow?
- Widen sidewalks across Edens
- Negative – the amount of surface area that kids need to cross
- To many left turn options
- Too many stop lights along Corridor
- Will increased traffic cause increased pollution

Table 7 Comments

- Need improvements for bikers moving through town and crossing Edens
 - Wider bridges
 - Safer crossings of on/off-ramps
 - Railings between bicycle/pedestrian and vehicular traffic on bridges
- Create separation with trees
- Consider not allowing left turns – or creating turn lanes
- Signal for left turns needed at Sunset Ridge
- Consider over pass connecting Clarkson to Willow Park
- Consider overpass at Wagner
- Create one-way matching pairs – Willow east one-way, Old Willow west one-way
- Mixed reaction to curb and gutter

Table 8 Comments

- Prefer underpasses to overpasses
- Make Willow “not visible” but crossable
- Plan first
- Repave it as two-lane and leave it
- Annoyed with Glenview
- Better safety crossings – Dominicks/Walgreens

Table 9 Comments

- Turn signals and turn lanes at Wagner and Sunset Ridge
- Liked under/overpass (north school in Glencoe a positive example)

- Timed signals at crossings a good idea
- Cross-walks needed at north and west sides of Happ/Willow intersection
- Consider bridge over Willow at Northfield/Happ/Central
- Create new Edens interchanges at Dundee and Golf to reduce dependence on Willow
- Get Glenview to put their money where their mouth is and pay for overpasses
- Do not extend Bosworth
- Make Tower Road and full interchange

Table 10 Comments

- Positive – Improvements will attract people, improve Village
- Landscaped medians will improve aesthetics and character
- Creating school zones critical because no speed zones currently exist
- Address cell phone uses in Northfield, like Winnetka is
- Underpass/overpass – too creepy or don't fit aesthetic of community
- Passing of left turners on shoulders is a problem – need better signage to alert them of lane changes
- Pollution and noise would be exacerbated if road widened
- Other regional solutions should be studied, like alternate access to Edens