



NORTHFIELD NEWS

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Final Willow Road Community Workshop to Include Consideration of Lanes and Traffic Capacity

Northfield and Winnetka Residents Invited to Attend Workshop in Winnetka Location

As part of the ongoing *Context Sensitive Solutions* design process, the Willow Road Steering Committee will host a third and final Willow Road Community Workshop on **Thursday, November 29 at 7:00 PM at North Shore Country Day School (Science Center Atrium), 310 Green Bay Road, Winnetka.**

At this workshop residents will consider issues of traffic capacity, mobility and lane configurations in addition to the issues of safety, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements and aesthetics discussed at previous workshops. The portion of Willow Road being studied runs from Waukegan Road on the west to Provident Avenue on the east and residents of both communities are urged to attend.

The Willow Road Community Workshop process is part of the new Illinois Dept. 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. IDOT explains, "Through early, frequent and meaningful communication with stakeholders and a flexible and creative approach to design, the resulting projects should improve safety and mobility for the traveling public while seeking to preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic and natural qualities of the settings through which they pass."

Encouraged by this new *Context Sensitive* approach and funded with State money obtained by Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg, the Villages of Northfield and Winnetka have joined together to take a new look at the longstanding issue of how Willow Road should be designed. The Villages hired the design firm The Lakota Group to lead the process and created the joint Steering Committee, composed of representatives from each community's village, school and park boards and other bodies.

Focus of the Community Workshops

At earlier Community Workshops held in September and October, The Lakota Group listened to residents' concerns and developed planning ideas. In September, over 100 participants worked thoughtfully and productively to describe what the context of Willow Road should be, considering core principles such as safety, transportation links, 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. At the October Workshop, over 125 participants reviewed what was learned in September and evaluated a range of solutions to achieve the core design goals.



**Willow Road Community Workshop to be Held Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 PM
at North Shore Country Day School, 310 Green Bay Road, in Winnetka**

At the final Workshop on November 29, participants will explore alternative plans that incorporate the desired community goals and solutions into an improved roadway design, providing a balance between safe traffic mobility and capacity concerns for the region.

The Steering Committee will then use the information gathered to develop preferred consensus plans that will be presented to each community's Village Board. The approved plans can then be brought forward for Senator Jeff Schoenberg to discuss with IDOT representatives after the first of the year.

For more information on Willow Road and the design initiative including past workshops, presentation materials, meeting minutes, newspaper articles and more, log on to the Villages' websites at www.northfieldil.org/Lakota.htm and www.villageofwinnetka.net.

Directions to Community Workshop at North Shore Country Day School, 310 Green Bay Road:

Traveling East

Head east on Willow Road to Green Bay Road (end of Willow Road). Turn right on Green Bay (south) and right again at the driveway to parking lot (first right, one block south of Willow). Proceed to Science Center.

Traveling South

Head south on Green Bay Road, take the first right into the driveway to the parking lot, one block south of Willow Road. Proceed to Science Center.

Traveling North

Head north on Green Bay Road. When you see the sign for North Shore Country Day School on your left, turn into the driveway (one block south of Willow Road). *Handicap access into the building is available from the parking lot at the corner of Forest Street and Elder Lane (southwest corner of the campus).*

All Northfield and Winnetka Residents Invited to Attend the Final Willow Road Workshop Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 PM at North Shore Country Day School 310 Green Bay Road (Science Center) Winnetka

Core Planning & Design Principles

Safety

- Provide new roadway solutions that are equal to or better than existing vehicular and pedestrian safety conditions.

Transportation Linkages

- Create, enhance and promote safe and secure new and future unified pedestrian and bicycle linkages, routes and crossings.

Access Points

- Provide safe traffic patterns and access to and from adjacent neighborhoods and businesses.

Environmental Context

- Reduce and improve environmental impacts through sound sustainable design and best management practices.

Open Space

- Enhance area character through aesthetically pleasing landscape solutions and other "green" open space practices.

Context Sensitive Approach

- Build upon and more clearly define IDOT's definition and guiding principles for Context Sensitive Solutions to individual community character, roadway design and planning.

