

Meeting on Elgin sidewalks and bus stops scheduled for November

By Mike Danahey mdanahey@stmedianetwork.com October 15, 2012 1:08PM



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ELGIN — If you walk or take the bus in the city, you might want to venture over to the Heritage Ballroom in The Centre Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5 p.m.

That's when Elgin will be hosting a first public meeting regarding a sidewalk gap and transit stop study.

The project is funded through a \$100,000 grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Senior Planner Dave Waden said, and is expected to take one year to complete.

"The plan will provide a five year sidewalk/path implementation program as well as recommended standards for transit stops," Waden said. "The plan will rank proposed sidewalk improvements based on their urgency. Some of the recommendations could be short term based on the findings."

According to Waden, currently there are 350 stops where at least one person boards each day. Only 98 have bus stop signs.

Waden explained that a sidewalk gap is either a sidewalk that stops for no apparent reason, or a missing sidewalk within an existing sidewalk network.

"We will be finding out about such gaps during the public meeting. The consultant is in the process of inventorying all sidewalks and multi-purpose paths within the city," Waden said. "The consultants will have numerous exhibits showing all regions of the city and the findings."

Consultant TranSystems is preparing the plan, which will include a complete inventory and assessment of the public sidewalk system, developing sidewalk program recommendations, reviewing existing transit stop locations, and providing recommendations to ensure that the condition of the transit stops do no compromise ridership.

A steering committee made up city staff and members of the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee are helping provide feedback and in guiding the consultant.