FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

Des Plaines River Trail: South Extension Planning Study

Project Steering Committee Meeting
4/12/2019
Meeting agenda

• Welcome and Introductions

• Summary of Existing Conditions Report

• MetroQuest Survey
  – Survey promotion / dates

• Next steps
PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Des Plaines River Trail runs 55 miles from Wisconsin border to Jerome Huppert Woods, near Oak Park.
- A 6-mile gap in the trail exists between North Ave. and Ogden Ave.
- Rosemont/Active Trans are currently studying improvements to the trail between Touhy and North.
- FPDCC applied to LTA to study potential trail alignments between 26th St. and Ogden Ave.
- A continuous trail along the Des Plaines River is called for in many plans and studies.
PROJECT STUDY AREA

26th STREET

OGDEN AVENUE

Metra Rail

Brookfield Station

Riverside Station

Forest Preserves

CMAP
Project Objectives

- **Identify** potential trail alignments and key community connector routes

- **Evaluate** feasibility / desirability of identified alignments

- **Conduct outreach and engage** key stakeholders

- **Select a preferred alternative(s)** to advance toward implementation
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**KEY PARTNERS**

- Friends of the Forest Preserves
- Salt Creek Greenway Association
- Riverside-Brookfield High School
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- MWRD
- IDNR
SCOPE OF WORK

Phase 1: Project orientation

Phase 2: Assess existing conditions
  • ECR Shared with SC on Feb. 1

Phase 3: Identify and evaluate potential trail alignments
  • Key Recs Memo

Phase 4: Draft Study Report

Phase 5: Final Report and Implementation Coordination
# PROJECT TIMELINE

Five phases to be completed over 18 months

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**Note:** The phase marked with a star (*) indicates a significant milestone.
EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

- Introduction
- Study Area Profile
- Relevant Plans, Studies, and Initiatives
- Community Outreach
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Looking Ahead
REGIONAL CONTEXT (Study Area Profile)
EXISTING LAND USE (Study Area Profile)
ENVIRONMENT (Study Area Profile)
RELEVANT PLANS, STUDIES, INITIATIVES

- Des Plaines River Trail Coalition
- Des Plaines River Trail: Southern Segment Corridor Plan: Touhy to North Trail
- Connect Chicagoland Vision Plan
- Brookfield Comprehensive Plan
- Brookfield Active Transportation Plan
- Riverside: Village-Wide Traffic Study
- Lyons Comprehensive Plan
- FPDCC Trail Master Plan
- FPDCC Recreation Master Plan
- Riverside Central Business District Plan
- West Central Municipal Conference Bike Plan
OUTREACH

- Study Area Bike Tour
- Steering Committee meetings / input
- Key Stakeholder Interviews
- MetroQuest Survey (under development)
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
- Trail / Sideway
- Conventional Bike Lanes
- Bicycle Boulevard
- On-Street Signed Route (Salt Creek Greenway)
- Wide (6-7 ft) Sidewalk
- Sidewalk (with Planting Buffer)
- Sidewalk (Back-of-Curb)
- Select Key Pedestrian Facilities

Miscellaneous
- Zoo Entrances (for Public)
- Schools
- Metra Rail / Stations

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2018.
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE (cont.)

Average Annualized Daily Traffic (AADT)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Crashes

Flood Susceptibility

Water (Flood Hazards)
KEY FINDINGS (Looking Forward)

- Recent, significant investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure should be leveraged
- Partner communities are committed to improving conditions and opportunities for bicycling and walking
- Riverside and Brookfield have identified viable on-street community bike routes in previous plans
- Stakeholders / trail users prefer off-street routes that maintain a sense of traveling in a natural setting
- Hoffman Dam removal has significantly altered hydrology of the Des Plaines River in parts of the study area
- Brookfield Zoo may benefit from improved bicycle access
POTENTIAL CORRIDORS

Potential Trail Corridors and Community Connector Routes

1. Trail Option 1: Salt Creek Corridor
2. Trail Option 2: 1st Avenue Corridor
3. Trail Option 3: Riverside Corridor

Community Connector Routes:
- Riverside - Forest Avenue
- Riverside - Swinging Bridge
- Brookfield - Washington Ave.
- Brookfield - 31st St.

Key Existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities:
- Trail / Sidewalk
- Conventional Bike Lanes
- Bicycle Boulevard
- On-Street Signed Route (Salt Creek Greenway)
- Wide (6-7 ft.) Sidewalk
- Sidewalk (with Planted Buffer)
- Sidewalk (Back-of-Curb)
- Select Key Pedestrian Facilities

Miscellaneous:
- Zoo Entrances (for Public)
- Schools
- Metra Rail / Stations

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2018.
KEY OPPORTUNITIES

• Newly- or recently-built sidepaths along 26th St. and 1st Ave. (which connect to the Salt Creek Greenway Trail), and along Ogden Ave. between 1st Ave. and Lawndale Ave.

• Robust bicycle accommodation on south side of 31st bridge over Salt Creek, included as part of bridge reconstruction

• 31st St. access / entrance area to Brookfield Zoo, and existing signalized intersection at 31st St. and Golfview Ave.

• “Remnant” bridges/footings over Salt Creek (at the far western end of Zoo property)

• FPDCC lands along west side of 1st Ave. between Parkview Ave. and Ogden Ave. (Waubansee Preserve)

• New land along the Des Plaines River (resulting from the removal of Hoffmann Dam)

• Ongoing acquisition of flood-prone properties north of 39th Street, in the Riverside Lawn area
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – Existing and recent investments in bikeways
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – Bicycle accommodation on 31st St. bridge (over Salt Creek)

North side of 31st St.: 7' wide unprotected sidewalk

South side of 31st St.: 10' wide barrier-protected sideway (bikeway standard)
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – Brookfield Zoo (North Entrance)
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – Remnant bridges/bridge pillars (over Salt Creek, at western end of Zoo)
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – Forest Preserve lands adjacent to (west side of) 1st Avenue

- Potential Trail (approximately 2,600 ft., segment north of Salt Creek)
- Potential Trail (Alternate route, approximately 1,380 ft. between Waubansee Rd. and Southview Ave.)
- Ramp-up (approximately 200 ft.)
- Bridge (approximately 260 ft.)
- Ramp-down (approximately 120 ft.)
- Potential Trail (approximately 600 ft., segment south of Salt Creek)

Alternate Route (between Waubansee Rd. and Southview Ave.)
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – New land along Des Plaines River (due to Hoffman Dam removal)
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – FPDCC lands and ongoing acquisition of property in Riverside Lawn area

- Riverside connector route
- 'Swinging' bridge (narrow)
- Widen sidewalk to sidepath
- Army Corps buyout
- Potential trail (instead of 39th St. on-street route)
- Difficult crossing
- Levy?
- Potential trail underpass - ?
- Cermak Aquatic Center
KEY OPPORTUNITIES – New guidance/treatments for pedestrian crossings at uncontrolled locations

PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON
Champaign, IL

Peoria Heights, IL

RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACON
Westchester, IL
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Des Plaines River Trail: South Extension Planning Study

Steering Committee Meeting
April 12, 2019

John O’Neal, Project Manager
joneal@cmap.illinois.gov

Project Website:
https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/LTA/des-plaines-river-trail-study