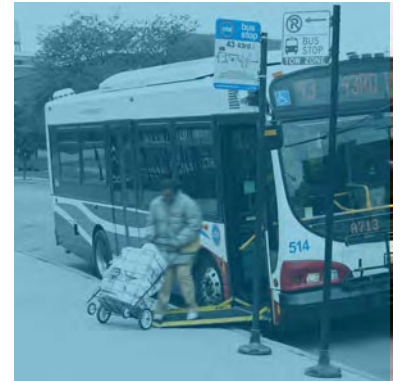


RECONNECTING Neighborhoods



Near North



Mid South



Near West

Final Recommendations Report

Adopted by Chicago Plan Commission July 15, 2009



Metropolitan **Planning Council**

HNTB
In association with:
MKC ASSOCIATES

RECONNECTING FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS Neighborhoods

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For more information visit:

www.ReconnectingNeighborhoods.org

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Reconnecting Neighborhoods is part of the City of Chicago's ongoing efforts to transform how public and affordable housing are integrated into their neighborhoods. Recognizing that successful integration of both new and renovated housing developments requires looking beyond the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) Plan for Transformation sites to the surrounding blocks and nearby commercial and employment centers, the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development initiated the Reconnecting Neighborhoods study. The Reconnecting Neighborhoods study is funded through the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) Community Planning Program (formerly known as the Regional Transportation Assistance Program, or RTAP). The Community Planning Program provides funding and planning assistance to communities for planning projects that benefit both local communities and the RTA transit system. To this end, the goal of the Reconnecting Neighborhoods study is to make recommendations on how the three selected study areas can be 'reconnected' to the City through improved access to public transportation, commercial services and an improved pedestrian environment. This project draws upon past planning efforts addressing each study area. Completed plans in each of the Reconnecting Neighborhoods study areas were reviewed as preparation for this study, and the principles and strategies presented in this report build upon these previous recommendations. The specific documents reviewed are listed here.

Technical analyses and recommendations for the study were prepared by HNTB Corporation with assistance from MKC Associates. The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) coordinated and facilitated community outreach efforts for the study including the convening of an Expert Panel in late October 2008 which reviewed and refined the Reconnecting Neighborhoods recommendations with particular focus on feasible implementation strategies, including public-private partnerships, the full text of the Panel's recommendations is available under separate cover from MPC. This report summarizes the

RELEVANT PLANNING REPORTS

Mid South

- City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, *Master Plan for the Cottage Grove Avenue Corridor*, 2006.
- Quad Communities Development Corporation and LISC/Chicago's New Communities Program, Quality-of-Life Plan, *Quad Communities: Connecting Past, Present and Future*, May 2005.
- City of Chicago, *Near South Community Plan*, August 2003.
- Mid-South Planning Group, *Mid-South Strategic Development Plan*, 1993.
- City of Chicago and Community Development Commission, *The North Kenwood – Oakland Conservation Plan*, July 30, 1992.

Near West

- Near West Side Community Development Corp. and LISC Metro Edge, *Westhaven Market Study*, November 2007.
- Near West Side Community Development Corp. and LISC/Chicago's New Communities Program, Quality-of-Life Plan, *West Haven: Rising Like the Phoenix*, October 2007.
- The Near West Side Community Development Corporation and LISC/ Chicago's New Communities Initiative, *More Than Bricks and Mortar: A Quality of Life Plan for West Haven*, Spring 2002.
- City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, *Transit Oriented Development Plans at Selected Green Line Stations*, November 1998.
- City of Chicago, *Green Line Station Location Study*, February 2002.
- City of Chicago, *Lake Street Enhancement Program*, November 1998.

Near North

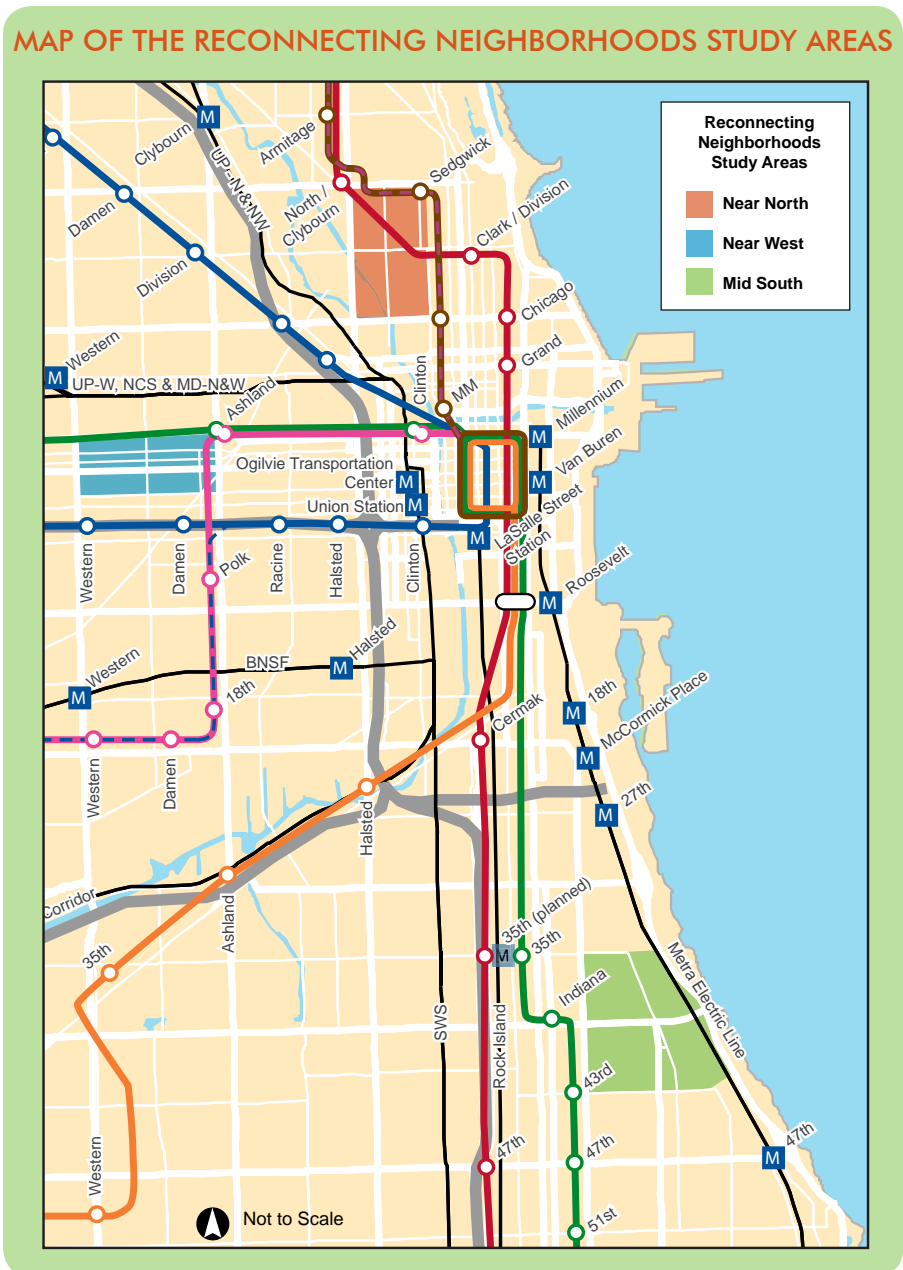
- City of Chicago Department of Transportation and Department of Planning and Development, *Halsted Triangle Plan*, October 2007.
- City of Chicago, *Near North Redevelopment Initiative*, Land Use Plan Map, 2006.



final recommendations for each of the three study areas. Further information and interim reports prepared during the study process can be found at: www.ReconnectingNeighborhoods.org.

Numerous discussions are occurring at various levels of government – regional, state, and federal- that link transportation, energy independence and green technology, and housing initiatives together. As such, the Reconnecting Neighborhoods recommendations and subsequent efforts have the opportunity to be more competitive in the future for these funding opportunities. Moving forward, the project and subsequent initiatives should be framed in the natural context of:

- **Equity:** Ensuring that residents of mixed-income communities, particularly low- and moderate-income residents, have access to adequate retail and job opportunities, safe and reliable public transportation.
- **Affordable Housing:** Maximizing the significant investment in the Plan for Transformation by ensuring the creation of “complete” communities that reduce the cost of both housing and transportation for residents.
- **Green House Gas Reduction:** Providing alternative transportation choices to residents in neighborhoods that are ideally located near the Chicago Central Business District.
- **Transportation Cost Reduction:** Creating low-cost transportation



options that provide an alternative to the personal automobile and its related, rising, fuel costs.

It is recommended that a community-based stakeholder group, similar in composition to the Inter-Governmental Advisory Committee (IGAC), will continue to undertake the implementation of these recommendations, while also encouraging and facilitating transit-supportive development throughout the City.

“Reconnecting Neighborhoods is a participatory initiative that bring[s] together long-time community residents, residents of the new mixed-income sites, community leaders, neighborhood institutions, developers, and existing and potential businesses and employers in three areas to analyze current conditions; propose plans for improving transportation infrastructure, transit service and commercial options; and make recommendations [which] bring the plans to fruition.”

— Metropolitan Planning Council