

Dickens Neighborhood Greenway

Summary of Public Meeting #2

August 22, 2019

The second public meeting was held on August 22, 2019. The meeting was held at the Lincoln Park High School Auditorium. The location was chosen because it is located directly along the project corridor, could accommodate a large crowd, and is easily accessible to stakeholders. The meeting was conducted as a hybrid open house/public information meetings. Stations were provided with project information and the proposed design presented on posters and large format plots. Members of the project team were available to engage the public, provide additional information, and answer questions. A formal presentation was also provided, followed by a question-and-answer/public comment period. Written comments were also collected. The presentation and meeting materials explained the goals of the project, project's design features and alternatives, and impacts of the project. Several hundred people attended the meeting.

The following summarizes the questions asked and comments given during the meeting. These questions and comments are grouped by themes.

Summary of Questions & Comments

Topic	Summary of Comment/Question	Response
Access	Enjoys riding on Dickens; wants Oz Park available for all people; need neighborhood greenway for access to the park	Thank you for your feedback.
Access	Feels that the negative press the neighborhood greenway has received is overblown and inaccurate; wants Lincoln Park to be inclusive and more access is a good thing	Thank you for your feedback.
Access	There are few east-west connections and this new neighborhood greenway would be a great addition; this was cited in the 2020 plan and it's great to see it happening	Thank you for your feedback.
Access	Bicyclist in the area; people are already biking contraflow on Dickens, we should formalize the route; no facts about any links with crime and bikes; access is a good thing	Thank you for your feedback.
Access	We specifically bought our place in a bike friendly neighborhood -this is a benefit; no links to crime	Thank you for your feedback.
Access	Lakefront Trail and Bloomingdale Trail connection concerns	Project limits do not extend to either the Lakefront Trail or the Bloomingdale Trail.
Access	Main concern is strangers on bikes/noise and outsiders; Oz Park already has too much traffic; wants to cul-de-sac the area	CDOT staff observed how people walking and biking interacted within the existing Oz Park shared use path and found no concern with user interactions. Observations were conducted during weekday and weekend time periods as well as during school hours.

Topic	Summary of Comment/Question	Response
Access	I use the existing neighborhood greenway on Wood Street and love it over more stressful arterials like Milwaukee; there is a need for more east-west connections	Thank you for your feedback.
Crime	This will bring crime with the additional traffic	Thank you for your feedback.
Crime	Concerns over bicyclists as they want to put their heads down and go fast; poor bicycle compliance; crime	Thank you for your feedback.
Crime	Bicyclists on the LFT go too fast; wants to see bicycle compliance with the rules; concerns over contraflow; crime; 606 extension	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Neighborhood greenway seems like a good idea but what about cars in this city?; no tickets for bicycle compliance; wants bikes off of Armitage; bumpout maintenance concerns	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Cited studies about bike lanes reducing traffic, requiring less maintenance, bicyclists stopping and spending money; younger people don't want cars	Thank you for your feedback.
General	"Hemmed by bicyclists"; thinks bicyclists are a special interest group; why do we need more bike lanes?	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Lots of benefits from neighborhood greenways and can't believe the NIMBYism that he is seeing; commends Chicago for prioritizing bicycles	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Why do you have remove trees? Why can't you install a protected bike lane? Why Dickens over another street?	No trees are proposed to be removed. Dickens is not wide enough to provide a protected bike lane. Dickens is already a popular route for bicyclists and other east/west local streets do not provide the same connectivity as Dickens.
General	Wasn't sure before the presentation and didn't know much but the presentation convinced me this is a good thing and would like to see traffic slowed	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Believes in the neighborhood greenway concept; I don't like the eastern terminus as it ends at the zoo and there are no plans for increased bike parking and this doesn't connect to the LFT	CDOT has surveyed the eastern area for additional bike racks and will evaluate future connections to the Lakefront Trail.

Topic	Summary of Comment/Question	Response
General	Enjoyed the presentation and likes the proposal except for the eastern terminus at Stockton; prefers PBL and concerns over the shared path in Oz Park; Suggests we make Webster one-way	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Concerns about children safety; worried about eastern terminus	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Dickens is duplicative to Armitage and dislikes contraflow; head-to-head crash is more dangerous	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Currently rides contraflow on his bicycle on Dickens; likes the proposal; strongly approves	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Opposed to routing bicyclists through Oz Park; high schoolers are disrespectful already; bumpouts don't give kids space	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Currently bikes on Dickens with children and thinks it's safe as is; opposes contraflow lanes; concerns with bicycle compliance	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Presentation was good; concerns with contraflow lanes; wants PBL	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Concerns about the bumpouts (believes they are worse for bicyclists) and contraflow lanes	Thank you for your feedback.
General	I ride a bike and have concerns about alley access interacting with bikes and cars; doesn't believe that bumpouts won't remove parking	Curb extensions will not remove any existing legal parking along the corridor. At alley's, green pavement markings will highlight conflict areas between people biking and driving.
General	Presentation was good; still concerns about using Dickens over other streets; concerns about contraflow and more traffic in Oz Park	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Presentation was good; concerns about bicycle compliance and alleys	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Active pedestrian in the neighborhood with a stroller; Big fan of the proposed bumpouts; pedestrian safety is great	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Can we close off dickens to vehicles?	At this time, the project does not propose Dickens be closed to people driving.
General	I work over on Milwaukee and the bicyclists on that street have a bad attitude	Thank you for your feedback.
General	Concerns about additional traffic in the neighborhood and in Oz Park; Oz is already overtaxed; doesn't want a bike highway; concerns over bicycle compliance	Thank you for your feedback.

Topic	Summary of Comment/Question	Response
Oz Park	Checked out existing NG and was impressed by them; worried about the hill in Oz Park and conflicts with bicyclists and kids; wants to see the route go down Howe through the parking lot; wants to see more bike facilities on Stockton; suggests a raised crosswalk at Howe and Dickens	Thank you for your feedback. See above for response regarding observations conducted within Oz Park.
Oz Park	Pedestrian who uses Oz Park; concerns over bicycle and pedestrian interactions	Thank you for your feedback. See above for response regarding observations conducted within Oz Park.
Oz Park	Doesn't see that high volume of observed contraflow bicyclists in Oz Park (60% on weekends); concerns about routing through Oz Park	Thank you for your feedback. See above for response regarding observations conducted within Oz Park.
Oz Park	Oz Park Advisory Council President; worried about increase in bike traffic in the park; concerns with children/bicycle interactions	Thank you for your feedback. See above for response regarding observations conducted within Oz Park.
Property Values	Concerns over property values	Thank you for your feedback.
Property Values	Property values will increase with NG; people want to live next to these	Thank you for your feedback.
Property Values	I live on the Berteau NG and I love it; invites people to go on a ride with her on the NG; real estate listings all list this as a selling feature	Thank you for your feedback.
Property Values	NG are something that will increase my property values and something I look forward to; I support the predictability; bicyclists already bike contraflow and we might as well mark space for them	Thank you for your feedback.
Property Values	I currently walk to Oz Park; Concerns about speeds and property values; likes opening up the neighborhood for more bicycles and pedestrians	The proposed traffic calming will reduce vehicle speeds and create consistent, slow speeds for both people biking and driving.
Safety	Her and her husband both ride bicycles; both are in favor	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Bike courier, I want a safe place to ride my bike	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Really like the NG concept and wants a safe place to ride	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	I see lots of people biking contraflow already and this safe route could be safer with the installation of the NG; concerns over maintenance	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	In favor of the NG; bicycling is her main mode of transportation and would like a safe place to learn the rules of the road	Thank you for your feedback.

Topic	Summary of Comment/Question	Response
Safety	Oz Park belongs to all of Chicagoans; NG will provide a safe space for my child	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	I am a bicyclist with kids and want NG for my children; concerns about injuries while biking	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Wants to see more NG and more bike facilities in general	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	In favor of the NG to access destinations safely	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Rides through the neighborhood; family of bicyclists and wants the youngest and most vulnerable to be safe	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Young girl who wants a safe route to bike to her school (Oscar Mayer)	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Very excited about this project; this seems like best practices; children will use this	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Worried about safe connections once his daughter isn't allowed to legally bike on the sidewalk and this project seems like a good idea for that	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Armitage is a dangerous street to bike with my children on and this project would create a safe connection	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	I want a street that I can feel safe on as my bicycle is my main mode of transportation	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	I want a street that I can feel safe on as my bicycle is my main mode of transportation	Thank you for your feedback.
Safety	Concerns about children in Oz Park and bicyclist interactions	Thank you for your feedback. See above for response regarding observations conducted within Oz Park.

Summary of Written Comments on the Proposed Design

During the open house portion of the meeting, a large plot of the proposed design was provided. Meeting attendees were encouraged to review the plot and provide comments and suggestions via written comments on post-it notes. The following summarizes the written comments provided. These comments are generally grouped by location.

Location	Summary of Comment/Question	Response
General	Great for Lincoln Yards, horrible for Lincoln Park	Thank you for your comment.
General	Michelle's pet project	Thank you for your comment.
General	This is a veiled benefit to Sterling Bay/Lincoln Yards	Thank you for your comment.

General	I am not against greenways. This will not be only for neighbors but bikes who are in a hurry.	Thank you for your comment.
General	Greenway yay!	Thank you for your comment.
General	Will bikes observe stop signs?	Thank you for your comment.
General	Will cars observe stop signs?	Thank you for your comment.
General	Need to make bikes more comfortable and safe	Thank you for your comment.
General	Fully support the greenway and plans are excellent	Thank you for your comment.
General	Contraflow lanes are great!	Thank you for your comment.
General	From having used other greenways, this is great and effective!	Thank you for your comment.
General	Armitage bike lanes are not safe for kids. Greenways yes!	Thank you for your comment.
Magnolia/Clybourn	Please connect to 606	Thank you for your comment.
Dickens/Magnolia	Why not connect to Clybourn at Dickens?	The routing along Magnolia Avenue connecting to the existing bike rout on Clybourn Avenue was chosen due to the existing signal at this intersection.
Racine	Lots of N-S cars rolling through this stop sign	Thank you for your comment.
Clifton	Use bioswales to help reduce run-ff	Thank you for your comment.
Clifton	Sidewalks are in disrepair	Thank you for your comment.
Clifton	Don't need bumpouts	Thank you for your comment.
Fremont	How will egress from alleys be possible and safe?	Egress from alleys is still possible and green pavement will highlight conflict areas between people driving and biking. Vehicles are expected to stop and look both ways before entering the street.
Dayton	What happens in this space between curb and bumpout?	The bumpouts proposed are detached from the curb and a small space between the curb and bumpout will remain.
Dayton	Who maintains this (bumpout)?	The proposed bumpouts are concrete and do not require additional maintenance.
Dayton	Bumpouts force cyclists into traffic	The bumpouts shadow the existing parking lane and will not bump people biking out into the vehicle travel lane.
Halsted	Cars don't obey traffic signs	Thank you for your comment.
Halsted	Bikes don't obey traffic signs	Thank you for your comment.
Oz Park	Are there design elements that will reduce speed?	The addition of bike racks and a new curb ramp are designed to slow entering bicyclists and invite people to spend time in Oz Park. Additionally, CDOT staff conducted field visits in Oz Park and did not find any issues with bicycle speed.
Oz Park	Need bike route on Webster	Thank you for your comment.
Oz Park	Would bollards help protect pedestrians?	CDOT staff has conducted field visits and determined that bollards are not necessary.

Oz Park	Install raised crosswalk at east end	Thank you for your comment.
Oz Park	Bike are already coming through, this keeps it. Design will keep it more orderly	Thank you for your comment.
Oz Park	What about winter? Snow does not stop bikers.	No changes to winter maintenance and plowing after installation of the neighborhood greenway.
Larrabee	Stop light needed here	At this time, no signal is proposed at this location as part of this project.
Larrabee	Does this reduce parking?	This project will not reduce parking. Curb extensions will be located where parking is already prohibited.
Mohawk	Make street 1-way for cars	Mohawk Street is currently a one-way northbound street.
Lincoln/Cleveland	Bravo! Safer crossing at 6-way intersection	Thank you for your comment.
Lincoln/Cleveland	The bumpouts here are they favorite part	Thank you for your comment.
Hudson	Concerns about 2-way bike traveling where cars are 1-way	CDOT has reviewed existing contraflow lanes in the city and found a reduction in crashes after installation. By creating a clear, dedicated space for people biking, the street and users are more predictable.
Sedgwick	Concerns about visibility for people biking when vehicles exiting alleys	Thank you for your comment. See above for response regarding egress at alleys.
Clark	Sidewalks are in bad shape	Thank you for your comment.
Clark/Lincoln	Make 1-way for cars	At this time, Clark Street and Lincoln Avenue will remain two-way.
Stockton	More bike parking here	Thank you for your comment. CDOT is reviewing opportunities for additional bike parking at this location.
Stockton	Concerns about bus/higher vehicles volumes on Stockton	Thank you for your comment.
Stockton	Needs more traffic calming	Thank you for your comment.

Summary of Comment Cards

Comment cards were provided for meeting attendees to leave a written comment. These comments are listed below and are generally grouped by location.

Topic	Summary of Comment/Question	Response
General	I am strongly in favor of the Greenway! Thank you for the proposal.	Thank you for your comment.
General	How many parking spaces will be eliminated?	This project will not reduce parking. Curb extensions will be located where parking is already prohibited.
General	Love it!	Thank you for your comment.
General	Bikes are awesome and make things for all safer! Thx	Thank you for your comment.

General	What is current hourly bike rate & what will it be?	Thank you for your comment.
General	This is a great plan. Especially like the Oz Park recommendations. Thank you!	Thank you for your comment.
General	The city is broke - why not use this money to pay back city debt?	This project will utilize a combination of local and federal funding.
General	Can we get police to give tickets to bikes that do not stop at stop signs?	Thank you for your comment.
General	Glenwood Greenway Foster to Ridge low stress routes	Thank you for your comment.
General	I want to add my support of The Dickens Greenway as a way to ensure safety of the multimodal use of transportation routes in the neighborhood. It makes sense! To protect the activity that is already happening.	Thank you for your comment.
General	My name is Shane Misztal from the 44th ward. I support the Greenway, I believe we must increase equitability for all modes of transportation as well as improve safety on the street, this will do both. Great presentation by CDOT glad they came w/ data to support their project.	Thank you for your comment.
General	For driving...Armitage + Webster + Fullerton are often impassable. Dickens = only way to set out.	Thank you for your comment.
General	A desperately needed connection from the lakefront to point west for everyone in the city! Just build it! (And every other planned bike improvement. Build those too!) - Ryan Griffin-Steginh	Thank you for your comment.
General	This is a great plan. I especially like the Oz Park recommendations. Thank you!	Thank you for your comment.
General	Why do we enforce rules, registration, fees, etc. on <u>cars</u> but not on bikes? <u>All</u> bike lanes should be <u>off</u> major thoroughfares, so drivers can drive safely and bikers can bike safely... clay (?)	Thank you for your comment.
General	In favor. We live in (the) neighborhood. We biked here on the Dickens sidewalk coming from Racine. We will bike home on the street. My 6 year old is on his own bike. That presentation was great. Love all the data.	Thank you for your comment.
General	Equitable (not equal) solutions for walking, biking, driving. Safe, low speed access to/from Lincoln Park.	Thank you for your comment.

General	Bus transport on Clybourn to relieve traffic? Public transport on Clybourn. Do bicyclists follow same traffic laws as cars? I would like to have the same behavioral expectations for bike riders at an intersection as I do for other cars. Are bikes going the same way as cars (Not contraflow) in the same lane as cars.	Thank you for your comment.
Routing	What is wrong with Armitage bike lanes? Why spend more \$ for only one block difference?	Thank you for your comment.
Routing	Like the idea of bikes going one way on Dickens + the other direction on Belden. Also, another route other than biking thru Oz Park.	Thank you for your comment.
Routing	I support the Greenway but am concerned about the shared path through Oz Park. Could we have a commitment by CDOT to widen that sidewalk and separate the cyclists from pedestrians, if there's a problem? And, is there another (additional) way to force cyclist to go slowly along sidewalk?	See above and Meeting #1 summary for response.
Routing	I prefer one way on Dickens + one way on Belden. Don't believe only 700,000 (cost), HATE SPEED BUMPS.	Thank you for your comment.
Routing	Greenway Pathway through Oz Park is in poor condition - lots of puddles, weeds and broken sidewalk. Will this be repaired? It is difficult to drive around curb extensions, especially the one by RJ Grunts. I am concerned that curb cuts at Dickens and Lincoln will be TOO BIG.	No changes to the path within Oz Park are proposed at this time.
Design	Access to Dickens from alleys will be dangerous without benefit of crosswalk or curb extensions with bike going in both directions. Bike riders need to stop at signs?	Thank you for your comment. See above for alley egress response.
Design	Zig zagging to avoid the bike racks at the entrances might result in crashes. Contraflow lanes are better marked than space for riding with traffic. I use Dickens to bike_but only westbound. I won't use it contraflow until the bike lanes are painted.	Thank you for your comment.