

Chicago Mobility Collaborative
March 16, 2023
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
McKinley Park Field House
Meeting Summary

Event Date & Time: Thursday, March 16th, 2023 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Number of Attendees: 90 total attendees (including participants joining via Zoom and in-person at McKinley Park Field House)

CDOT Staff Attendees: Romina Castillo (Director), Jamie Simone (Managing Deputy Commissioner), Erica Schroeder (Public Information Officer), Dave Smith (Complete Streets Manager), Kurt Facknitz (Managing Engineer)

CDOT Consultant Attendees: Shameka Turner, Angel Montalvo, Emme Williams, Chris Zombory, Edwin Serna, Carolina Carillo, Lizeth Solis, Aaron Gatdula, Riley O’Neil, Gina Showers

Leadership Group Attendees: Garth Katner, Ismael Cuevas, Jeremy Cuevas, Peter Taylor, Ruth Rosas, Rochelle Jackson

Summary of Meeting: This meeting was held both in-person at the McKinley Park Field House and virtually via Zoom. CMC Leadership Group member Garth Katner opened the meeting with McKinley Park resident Dixon Galvez-Searle welcoming all participants to the first 2023 quarterly CMC meeting. Dixon, who is a representative of The Southwest Collective share information about his organization and the work they conduct in the community, he also elevated a few transportation priorities for McKinley Park and provided a few examples of how they have collaborated with CDOT in the past. After this, Complete Streets Director David Smith shared CDOT updates and upcoming projects/initiatives. This included a preview of the 2023 Cycling Strategy Update, as well as the upcoming Neighborhood Bike Network process slated for McKinley Park, Brighton Park, and Gage Park. Director of Outreach and Engagement, Romina Castillo, introduced the three Community Tables facilitated by the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), CDOT staff, and the CMC Leadership Group members. These conversations are summarized below.

Community Tables Summaries – What we heard from participants

Table 1 - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Facilitators – Audrey Wennink, MPC / Jennifer Henry, CTA / Kurt Facknitz, CDOT

- Number of participants: 21
- Action Items
 - Release the Better Streets for Buses Plan.

- Coordinate a site visit and follow-up conversation along a priority corridor determined in the plan to start building support.
- Reconvene a Community Table next CMC meeting to discuss the Better Streets for Buses plan and identify specific topics within BRT such as corridor selection or business support.
- High-level participants' feedback:
 - The community is willing to support BRT projects and change the narrative about its effectiveness.
 - The City and local agencies must act on a specific project or corridor.
 - Participants shared their experiences with BRT in places around the world and in the US outside of Chicago, especially in Latin America.
 - Many are disappointed that the Ashland BRT project was shut down.

Table 2 - Beyond the Bike Lane

Facilitators – David Smith, CDOT / Ismael Cuevas, CMC Leadership Group

- Number of participants: 21
- Action Items
 - Develop shopper/business surveys and partner with community organizations interested in piloting the surveys along local commercial corridors.
 - Create a strategy to proactively reach business owners and chambers of commerce to discuss upcoming cycling and complete street improvements.
 - Reconvene a Community Table next CMC meeting to report on efforts and continue the conversation.
- High-level participants' feedback
 - There are clear opportunities to collaborate with CDOT such as open streets, requesting data, and bike racks.
 - Participants requested more information to better understand how bike infrastructure works.
 - There is interest in learning more about how projects are evaluated and planned before deciding if they are viable and feasible.
 - Participants suggested that CDOT take an “all in” approach for a specific Complete Streets project which can set an example for future implementation.
 - One suggestion to engage with business owners is to create and convene a network of businesses that advocate for better bike infrastructure. These businesses can become Ambassadors and promoters of the economic power of cycling and complete streets.

Table 3 - McKinley Park Walking Tour

Facilitator – Dixon Galvez-Searle, The Southwest Collective

- Number of participants: 12
- Action Items
 - There are no actions items from this conversation.

- High-level participants' feedback
 - McKinley Park would benefit from comprehensive, multi-year planning
 - Construct bicycling and walking infrastructure on Archer Avenue that takes into account the varying width of the street.
 - CDOT should take on comprehensive planning, with the goal of encompassing multiple wards and neighborhoods.
 - City departments must work together on transit issues.