

2024 Budget Statement to the Chicago City Council
Chicago Department of Transportation
October 26, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairman Ervin, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the City Council. Thank you for having the Chicago Department of Transportation before you today.

My name is Tom Carney, Acting Commissioner of CDOT. I look forward to answering your questions and discussing the work CDOT is doing to maintain and improve our transportation infrastructure in every neighborhood to enhance quality of life for people in Chicago.

With more than 4,100 miles of streets, 413 bridges and viaducts, nearly 400 miles of on-street bikeways, over 300,000 streetlights, 7,400 miles of sidewalks, and nearly 3,000 signalized intersections citywide, CDOT oversees one of the largest and most complex transportation networks in the country. To keep Chicago moving safely and efficiently, CDOT is committed to maintaining these assets in a manner that increases access to opportunities and promotes safety for all residents and visitors.

2023 has been a very busy year for CDOT and we look forward to carrying this momentum into 2024. We've made significant progress on numerous major projects, including the following:

The 43rd Street Bridge: We completed the 43rd Street Pedestrian Bridge, which is a new, fully accessible pedestrian and bicycle bridge over South DuSable Lake Shore Drive and the railroad tracks, giving South Side residents easier access to Chicago's lakefront.

Jackson Park Mobility Improvements: Crews completed several major milestones for the Jackson Park Mobility Improvements project in support of the Obama Presidential Center. This includes the construction of three new pedestrian underpasses and a new fully reconfigured signalized intersection at Hayes Drive and Richards Drive. When completed, this project will provide multi-modal access to the OPC and Lakefront, support a revitalized Jackson Park, and strengthen the surrounding area.

Canal Street Viaducts: We broke ground on a multi-phase project to rehabilitate four viaducts of Canal Street between Taylor Street and Madison Street that serve as both a major corridor into Chicago's Central Business District and as the roof over parts of Union Station.

DuSable Lake Shore Drive: We're completing several improvements and significant repairs to DuSable Lake Shore Drive. This Spring, we completed much-needed resurfacing between LaSalle Drive and Lawrence Avenue. Currently, we are completing pavement patching and joint repairs between 31st and 57th. And we recently began work on the DuSable Lake Shore Drive Bridge viaduct network to make repairs essential for the bridge's preservation and long-term health.

The Lake Street Bascule Bridge: In 2024, CDOT will begin rehabilitating the Lake Street Bascule Bridge over the South Branch of the Chicago River. This major rehabilitation will

include complete replacement of the bridge over the river, which carries double track CTA trains on the upper level and vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the lower level.

Transit Stations: Progress continues on the construction of the Damen and Lake Green Line CTA station that will open next year and fill an important transit gap on the West Side. In 2024 we will break ground on the new State/Lake CTA station that will replace the more than 100-year-old existing structure.

Divvy Expansion: Chicago's Divvy bikeshare system expanded service citywide and is the largest system by area in North America. We're also adding more bikes and new stations to make Divvy access more convenient and equitable throughout every neighborhood.

Streetscapes: CDOT works to make our communities more livable and vibrant through streetscape projects in neighborhoods across the city. Through community engagement and strategic design engineering, our streetscapes program creates safe public places that reflect the unique character of Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. This year we broke ground and made significant progress on several major streetscape projects across the city, including in Back of Yards, Austin, Rogers Park, South Chicago, Mount Greenwood, and Lincoln Square. Dozens of additional streetscape projects are in various phases of design, preliminary engineering, and procurement.

Safety for All Users of the Road

In addition to these major projects, we have been making an unprecedented number of safety improvements on our streets to reduce traffic crashes and ensure that everyone can move around our city comfortably, regardless of their age, ability, or mode of transportation.

We are continuing to deliver pedestrian safety investments at scale, reaching 400 or more locations annually by integrating safety features into all CDOT construction programs.

This year we are on pace to install more than 55 miles of bikeway projects, including more miles of protected and low-stress bike lanes than in any previous year. We also released the Chicago Cycling Strategy, which outlines our community-driven approach to expanding Chicago's bike network and creating a more equitable, safe, and inviting city for cycling.

These investments in Complete Streets are helping make Chicago a safer place for all users of the road. While any traffic fatality is too many, we are continuing to see positive trends in traffic safety following a spike in traffic fatalities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fatalities decreased 14 percent in 2022 compared to 2021, and that downward trend is continuing this year. 2023 traffic fatalities are also down compared to the previous 5- and 10-year averages. CDOT looks forward to continuing to work closely with City Council to make Chicago's streets safer.

Neighborhood Services

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- Resurfaced more than 160 miles of arterial streets, residential streets, and alleyways
- Filled more than 470,000 potholes
- Refreshed over 150 miles of roadway pavement markings
- Installed more than 7,000 ADA sidewalk ramps city-wide, bringing the total to 136,000 ADA compliant ramps installed across the city since 2006
- Installed 174 blocks of residential street lighting and repaired over 34,000 streetlights and 16,000 traffic signals; and
- Planted more than 5,500 trees along arterial streets, and in medians and boulevards

Behind the scenes of all this work is CDOT's Program Coordination Office, which has improved the coordination of these projects alongside the work of other agencies and service providers within the public right of way, helping save taxpayers millions of dollars while minimizing disruption to our businesses and residents.

We have accomplished much in 2023 in close collaboration with City Council and with the support of Mayor Johnson. We look forward to building on this success to deliver the best possible services to the residents of Chicago next year.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.