SECTION 4: **Opportunity sites**

The land use and urban design analysis and the assessment of market development opportunities discussed in the previous sections of this *Plan* are the first steps in redesigning the Study Area. The land-use planning combined with an economic analysis, yields a sound basis for further planning and new development within the Study Area.

Approach to Improvement and Redevelopment:

Many existing uses in the Study Area are sound and viable. However, there are significant opportunities for new development and redevelopment along the major corridors.

The *Plan* allows for improvement and redevelopment to occur in the Study Area over a period of years, in a series of phases, as opportunities arise and resources become available. While redevelopment might take place over a period of years, redevelopment should not occur as a series of isolated and unrelated projects. While each project should be capable of standing on its own merits, each should also be consistent with the *Design Guidelines* as presented in Section 6 for the Study Area as a whole.

Furthermore, since redevelopment will be phased over a period of years, the Plan addresses both the short- and long-term needs of the various Opportunity Sites. For example, short-term improvements for certain sites might include the enhancement of sites, buildings, parking lots, design enhancements, and development of sites that are currently vacant and readily available for development. Long-term improvements might include large-scale redevelopment, requiring potential land assembly and more significant investments within the area.

Properties Susceptible to Change

While development or redevelopment could conceivably occur anywhere within the Study Area, several properties appear to be more "susceptible" to change than others and could present strong redevelopment opportunities.

Properties potentially subject to change are illustrated and described in more detail in Figure 10 and include:

- Pending and Current Projects,
- Vacant properties,
- Underutilized surface parking,
- Underutilized land parcels and deteriorated buildings,
- Select commercial properties,
- · Select used car lots and auto repair facilities, and
- Select residential properties.

Figure 10: Properties Susceptible to Change

While development or redevelopment could conceivably occur anywhere within the Study Area, several properties appear to be more "susceptible" to change than others and could present strong redevelopment opportunities. Properties potentially subject to change are illustrated below and include the following property types.

Pending and Current Projects

 A 7-level 6,300 car public parking garage is currently under construction on the north side of 55th Street between Laramie and Cicero Avenue to serve Midway Airport. Phase II is planned to begin construction in 2006 and will include a 5-level consolidat-

Vacant Properties

There are over 150 vacant and underutilized parcels scattered throughout the Study Area. A significant concentration of these properties is located at the southeast corner of Cicero Avenue and I-55, and presents a unique

acterized by: a) underutilization; b) marginal uses; and c) functional obsolescence. These properties have potential for redevelopment in the future.

Underutilized Parking Lots. There are several parking lots along the Cicero Avenue corridor and along the major east-west streets that are currently underutilized. These sites may be subject to redevelopment or enhanced parking to serve new developments.

Commercial Properties

This category includes commercial properties that are currently occupied by sound and viable businesses that may be subject to intensification or redevelopment due to their location, age, current use, and physical condition. These properties might be improved and upgraded, or combined with nearby properties for redevelopment.

Many of the commercial properties within the Study Area are older and have an unatractive appearance from the major roadways and pedestrian routes. Opportunities to improve or redevelop these properties

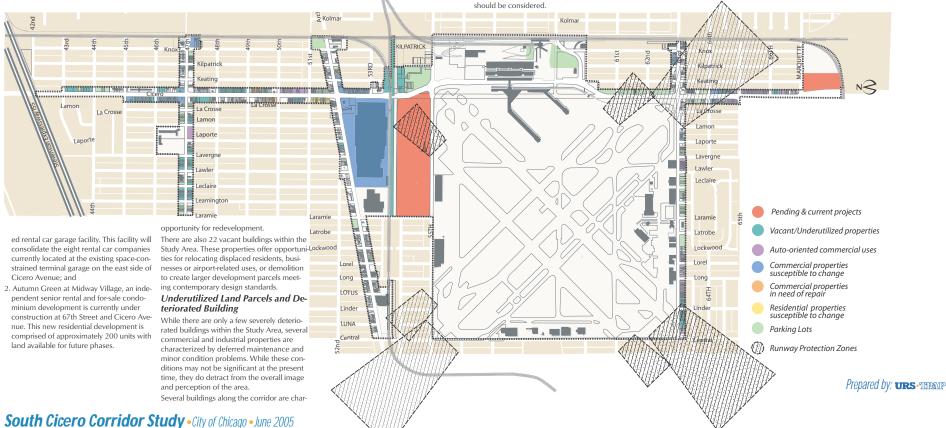
Auto-Oriented Commercial Uses

While the Study Area has no truly incompatible uses, some auto-oriented commercial uses and repair shops do occupy prominent and highly visible sites within the corridor. Even though these may be viable businesses, they may also represent an underutilization of prime frontage properties and may eventually be subject to future redevelopment. Underutilized industrial and auto-oriented sites may become prime sites for more compatible commercial uses. Also, given the potential for 47th street to become predominantly residential, existing auto-oriented businesses

along 47th Street may not be appropriate in the future.

Residential Properties

Residential uses in close proximity to industrial and commercial uses may represent incompatible landuse configuration if not appropriately buffered. This category also highlights several older residential properties that are located along or near the major streets that pass through the Study Area. Certain properties of these might be replaced with new multifamily housing, or be redeveloped for new businesses, parking, or public open space.



Opportunity Sites

Based on the presence of susceptible properties described above and illustrated in Figure 10, Figure 11 illustrates the five sub-areas within the Study Area, as well as an overview of all the key opportunity sites identified for potential new commercial, office, residential, and mixed-use development. Followed by Figure 11 are the sub-area plans (Figures 12-16), which provide detailed analysis on the individual key sites within each sub-area.

Figures 11 - 16 highlight potential Opportunity Sites within the Study Area that have been identified as having strong potential for future improvement and redevelopment based on both our physical assessment and market findings for the Study Area. The Opportunity Sites are identified by the following development priorities:

Priority 1: Potential development within next 1 - 5 years

Priority 2: Potential development within next 6 - 8 years

Priority 3: Potential development within next 8 + years

These development priority rankings were based on the following factors:

- Land Assembly Issues
- Site Configuration
- Taxpayer Information
- Existing Use
- Market Demand

The existing characteristics and future potentials of each Opportunity Site are presented in Table 1, which highlights the following:

- Site Location,
- Site Size,
- Strengths,
- Challenges,
- Improvement or Redevelopment,
- Future Development/Improvement Recommendations,
- Current Zoning,
- · Recommended Zoning, and
- Development Priority.

The figures represent an identification of key development opportunity sites, a summary of their strengths and weaknesses, and an initial recommendation for market- and community-appropriate development on each site.

Figure 11: Sub-Area Plan and Key Opportunity Sites

The map presented below illustrates the five sub-areas within the Study Area, as well as an overview of all the key opportunity sites. Given the large size and varying characteristics of the Study Area, sub-areas were created to better address planning issues within the various corridors. These subareas include:

- Cicero Ave North of 51st Street
- 47th Street
- · Archer Avenue
- Cicero Avenue South of 54th Street
- 63rd Street

Area and how they relate to the various sub areas. Detailed opportunity site analysis is provided in ₹ Kolmar

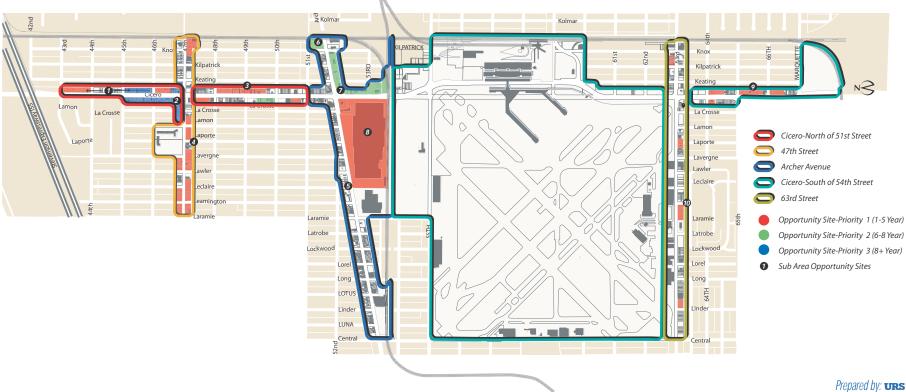


Figure 12: Opportunity Sites, Cicero Avenue-North of 51st Street

1-55, Midway Airport, numerous City of Chicago community areas, and nearby suburbs. A area serving three customer segments: local neighborhood residents and workforce,

Opportunity Sites

LeClaire Courts LeClaire Courts/Extention (LeClaire) Public Housing development is located just outside of the Study Area along the westside of Cicero Avenue between I-55 and 45th street. Even though LeClaire is located outside the Study Area it is important to note that CHA is currently working with the URS Consultant Team to create a Plan for Transformation for LeClaire with the goal of improving housing conditions and the integration of the LeClaire residents with the larger community. Specific recommendations for this site will be addressed in the LeClaire Court Redevelopment Plan prepared by URS Corporation for the Chicago Housing Authority, which could further strengthen the development potential along Cicero Avenue.

Site 1 is approximately 5.5 acres in size and contains a mix of vacant land and buildings.

ed over various time frames. Current vacant and underutilized sites could easily be redeveloped within the next 5 years while the other sites may be longer term, requiring land assembly or business investment of existing properties. The City should work with existing property owners and potential developers ment being recommended along 47th Street. to assemble and market sites for redevelop-

Site 2 encompasses approximately 4.7 acres I-55 and directly adjacent to the future redevelopment of LeClaire, this site holds the potential to become a strong anchor for the Cicero Avenue corridor if the site is configured to meet modern day development and design standards. Currently the majority of the parcels along Cicero Avenue are limited in depth to around 100 feet and typically can only sup- within the next 5 years given strong market port traditional "strip center" development. It ing district changes on properties within and mit contemporary commercial development. Such zoning changes would encourage the private development community to assemble

properties and create sites with sufficient depth that will attract and support a sizable retail development serving the surrounding neighborhoods. It is also recommended that residential units be included on the upper floors, helping to connect the residential develop-

Site 3 encompasses approximately 5 acres of underutilized property on Cicero Avenue between 47th Street and 51st Street. This area located at the northwest corner of 47th Street contains a mix of uses including; highway comand Cicero Avenue. Strategically located near mercial/retail, multi-family residential, auto-oriented commercial, rental car agencies' overflow lots, vacant and underutilized sites. Site 3 contains several areas where adjacent vacant parcels have been assembled under one ownership, making these areas ripe for future development. It is anticipated that these existing assembled vacant properties will be developed conditions, while the marginal properties

Gateway Demarcations

New gateway design features should be developed at select locations. These might incorporate an attractive corridor or airport logo or other visual symbol to denote this area as a gateway corridor into the City of Chicago.

Streetscaping Improvements.

While streetscape improvements have been made to Cicero Avenue, future improvements should include street trees, parkway landscaping, street light fixtures, and directional signage. Median and parkway landscaping should respect Cicero Avenue as a major Arterial and designed so as to not impede traffic flow and visibility

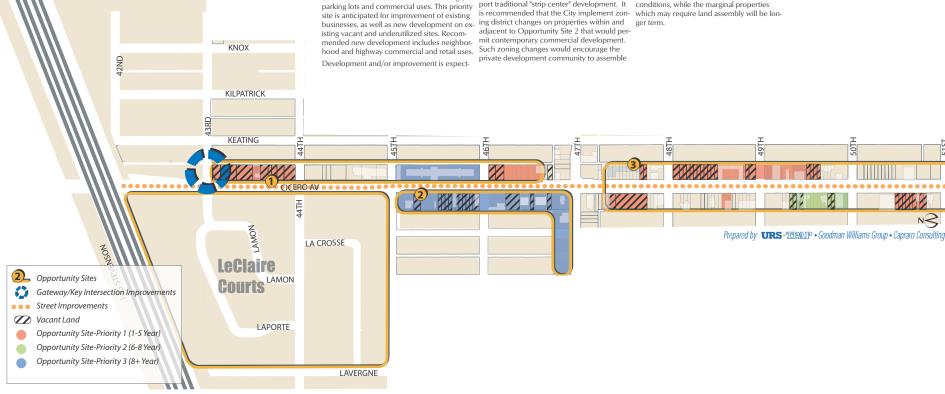


Figure 13: Opportunity Sites, 47th Street

The 47th Street corridor between Laramie Avenue and the Kenton Line railroad tracks east of Knox Avenue is surrounded on the north and south by solid residential neighborhoods. The corridor itself, however, features numerous underutilized properties and a significant number of vacant lots and buildings, reflecting the erosion of the corridor's historic purpose as a neighborhood shopping street. The vision for the 47th Street Corridor is to maintain its neighborhood and pedestrian orientation, while encouraging redevelopment as a residential zone. Housing in a variety of product types and price ranges, interspersed with some neighborhoodoriented retail or services at key intersections, would help to reestablish vitality and positive activity along the corridor.

Opportunity Sites

Site 4 encompasses approximately 9 acres of vacant parcels on 47th Street between Laramie and the railroad tracks just east of Knox Avenue. The majority of the sites along this corridor are either vacant or underutilized. 47th Street was historically intended to be a neighborhood commercial corridor. The old neighborhood habits of daily shopping have been generally replaced with supermarkets and big-box retail stores. People no longer want to invest the time to make separate stops at the bakery or the butcher. In many ways, the role and function of the traditional neighborhood commercial district has changed. This has left many commercial corriunits types and to allow for residential develdors throughout Chicago looking for new ways to remain useful.

The recommended redevelopment strategy for the 47th Street corridor is to encourage

void left by commercial businesses that are no longer viable along 47th Street. Recommended residential development along 47th include: attractive townhomes, 3 to 6 unit walk-ups, 3 - 5 story condominium and/or rental buildings, and mixed-use buildings at key intersections with neighborhood retail/services on the ground floor. Currently, there is strong residential demand in the area, which indicates that this corridor has potential to be redeveloped within the next five years. The majority of this corridor is currently zoned as C1-2, B1-1, and B2-1 Districts. It is recommended that this corridor be re-zoned to allow for the above referenced residential opment on the ground floors. Such recommended zoning categories include B2 and B3

Streetscaping Improvements

Coordinated streetscape improvements should be undertaken along 47th Street. Improvements should include street trees, parkway landscaping, street light fixtures, pedestrian lighting, and directional signage.

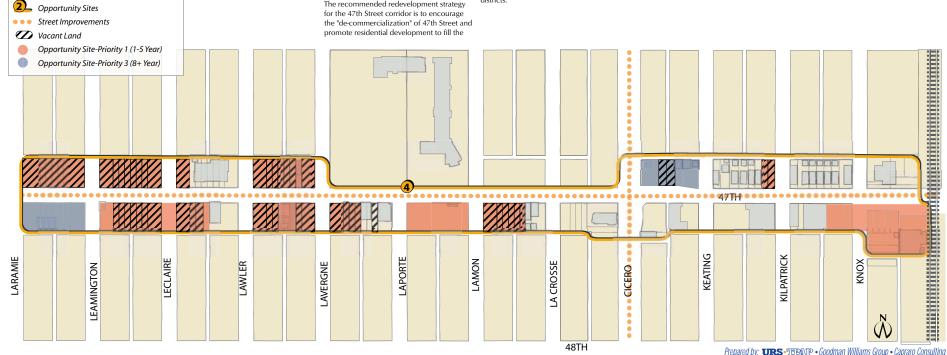


Figure 14: Opportunity Sites, Archer Avenue

The Archer Avenue corridor is bounded by Central Avenue on the west and the Kenton Line railroad tracks east of Knox Avenue. This stretch of Archer Avenue is a dense, mixed-use commercial corridor serving local and regional traffic, carrying on average over 29,000 vehicles per day. The vision for this corridor is to strengthen the existing commercial character. Much of the current commercial development small businesses, neighborhood goods and services, and specialty goods - is currently healthy and well-maintained, although there are instances of deferred maintenance and opportunities for aesthetic improvement. As an alternate route into downtown Chicago from the Midway Airport, the image and strength of this

Opportunity Sites

Gateway/Key Intersection Improvements

whole between Central Avenue and the railroad tracks. Archer Avenue is a healthy mixed-use commercial corridor with relatively little to no vacancies. While there are only a few severely deteriorated buildings along Archer Avenue, some of the properties can be characterized as "weathered and tired" exhibiting some deferred maintenance and minor condition problems. While these conditions may not be significant at the present time, they do detract from the overall image and perception of the area. It is recommended that over time these existing properties be improved through renovation efforts and/or façade improvements. Such improvements can be undertaken by the individual property owners and businesses within the next five years and can be encouraged through the various City

Site 5 generally includes Archer Avenue as a

Opportunity Sites

Site 6 is approximately 2 acres in size and is located at the northeast corner of Archer and Knox Avenues. This site is currently underutilized and used as a trucking facility. Recognizing that future access of this site may be reduced and/or eliminated by the

improvement and investment assistance

programs.

of the site and potential access restrictions, a light manufacturing use is recommended. Alternatively, if access is completely restricted due to rail crossing improvements, oper space may be appropriate. Potential development timing for this site is estimated to occur within the next 6 to 8 years.

Site 7 is approximately 7.3 acres in size and includes the property located at the southeast corner of Archer Avenue and Cicero Avenue. This site is highly visible and serves as a gateway to and from Midway Airport. As discussed above, future access may be restricted for parts of the site fronting Archer Avenue due to the planned CREATE rail crossing grade separation at Archer Avenue and the Kenton Line, potentially limiting the development potential of this site. However, given the expected commercial redevelopment of Site 11, this corner has strong redevelopment potential for creating a new image and "downtown" center for the

This opportunity area currently contains a mix of uses, such as vacant land and buildings, parking, local office, and retail establishments. Given the numerous existing businesses within this opportunity site, it is expected redevelopment will occur more in redeveloped as commercial service and

airport operations

Site 8 is over 51 acres in size and includes the property located at the southwest corner of Archer and Cicero Avenues. The current uses include the Midway Business Center. Brandy's Restaurant, Skylark Motel, and the former Indiana Harbor Belt right-of-way. These businesses are marginal in use and/or are currently underutilized. The approximately one million square feet of industrial/warehouse space within the Midway Business Center has been about 60% vacant this past year due to the departure of several key tenants. Little demand exists for this space due to increased congestion in the area and difficult truck access. This site is currently located within the Stevenson Industrial Corridor and is recommended to be removed from the corridor since market conditions indicate that industrial use is no longer the highest and

Given the site's close proximity to Midway Airport and the Airport's future bus-way shuttle system, it is recommended that the site be redeveloped to support and help strengthen the airport's operations. Based on the site's size, configuration, strategic location, and market conditions, the site is recommended to be redeveloped into the following mix of uses: hotel/conference, office/flex space, and retail. It is anticipated

the next five years given that the majority of the site is under one ownership and market demand is strong

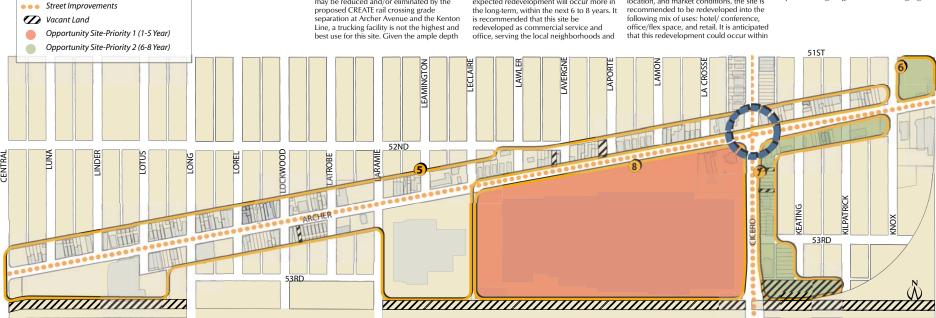
Given the site's large size and key location at the intersection of Archer Avenue and Cicero Avenue, redevelopment of this site provides an opportunity to truly change the character and face of the area, creating a sense of place for the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, the development of hotel and conference facilities will significantly strengthen and improve airport operations, creating additional economic stimulus for the

Gateway Demarcations

New gateway design features should be developed at select locations. These might incorporate an attractive corridor/airport logo or other visual symbol to denote this area as a gateway corridor into the City of

Streetscaping Improvements

Coordinated streetscape improvements should be undertaken along Archer Avenue. Improvements should include street trees, parkway landscaping, street light fixtures, pedestrian lighting, and directional signage



Prepared by: URS • TYPAYP • Goodman Williams Group • Capraro Consulting

Figure 15: Opportunity Sites, Cicero Avenue -South of 54th Street

The Cicero Avenue Corridor between 55th Street (Midway Airport) and 67th Street is a major arterial street, and serves as a linkage between the Airport, the far southwest side of the City of Chicago, and near southwest suburbs. Near the airport, the corridor is currently characterized by airport structures, parking and airport-related businesses; south of 63rd Street, there are a diverse mix of uses including retail, commercial, senior housing, and vacant land and buildings. The recent renovation of Midway Airport and attractive urban design projects in the surrounding environment should serve as a catalyst for further development and beautification along this corridor.

Opportunity Sites

Site 9 encompasses approximately 3.3 acres of vacant or underutilized property between 63rd Street and 67th Street along Cicero Avenue. Existing property owners have expressed interest in working collaboratively to redevelop select properties within the area. Given this collaborative effort and the area's close proximity to the airport and the Midway Hotel Center, it is expected that redevelopment could occur within the next five years. Howev- Streetscaping Improvements er, potential residential property acquisition may be required to assemble sites large enough to meet development criteria of national chain retailers. In addition to new retail development in the area, existing businesses

should be encouraged to improve and invest in their properties.

Gateway Demarcations

New gateway design features should be developed at select locations. These might incorporate an attractive corridor/airport logo or other visual symbol to denote this area as a gateway corridor into the City of Chicago.

It is recommended that the existing streetscaping along the airport campus, between 54th Street and 63rd Street, be extended south to add continuity along Cicero Avenue and create a more inviting, pedestrian-friendly envi-



Figure 16: Opportunity Sites, 63rd Street

The 63rd Street corridor is bounded by Central Avenue on the west, and the Kenton Line railroad tracks east of Knox Avenue on the east. It is primarily a commercial currently contains a diverse mix and quality of uses, and presents an incoherent boundary between the Airport, located on the north side of the street, and residential neighborhoods located behind the commercial uses on the south side of the street. The corridor, and development along its south side, would serve as effective edge for the Airport by reserving future development/redevelopment for ancillary airport-related functions and safety-related open space.

Opportunity Site

Site 10 encompasses approximately 3.4 acres of vacant and underutilized sites scattered along 63rd Street between Central Avenue and the Kenton Rail Line. These sites pres- along the corridor. ent the greatest opportunity for the City and/or Airport in the short-term to acquire and reserve land for future airport use. Given the immediate adjacency of Midway Airport on the north, this corridor holds the potential to become an extension of the airport. The airport is currently landlocked and airport development needs have been increasing over recent years, as demonstrated by airport-related activities locating along the 63rd Street corshould be undertaken along 63rd Street. Imridor.

In the long-term, this corridor is recommended to be transitioned over to airport property, rectional signage.

given the airport's limited physical growth capacity. Such transition will be long-term, likely occuring within the next 15 - 20 years, given the number of existing viable businesses

Gateway Demarcations

New gateway design features should be developed at select locations. These might incorporate an attractive corridor/airport logo or other visual symbol to denote this area as a gateway corridor into the City of Chicago.

Streetscaping Improvements

Coordinated streetscape improvements provements should include street trees, parkway landscaping, street light fixtures, and di-

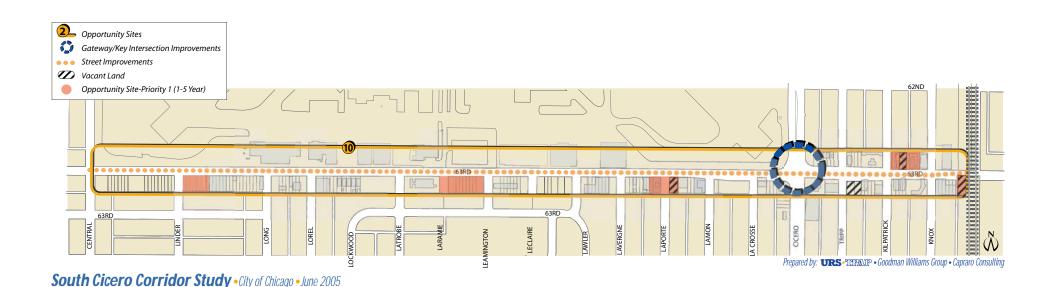


Table 1: Assessment of Opportunity Sites

South Cicero Corridor Study Area, Chicago, IL

Site	Number and Location	Site Size	Strengths	Challenges	Improvement or Redevelopment	Future Development/ Improvement Recommendations	Current Zoning*	Recommend. Zoning**	Development Priority
Cice	ro Avenue Corridor – No	orth of 51	st Street				,		•
1	Underutilized property on east side of Cicero between 43 rd and 48 th	5.5 acres	 Existing vacant properties Proximity to I-55 Located on high-traffic Cicero Avenue Located on neighborhood collector street with bus access Inside Cicero/Archer TIF District 	 Multiple property owners Underutilized businesses currently on property Potentially high speculative land prices Limited depth lots May require residential acquisition to achieve deeper lots 	Combination	 Neighborhood commercial & retail Highway commercial & retail 	B3-1 B3-3 PD-602	Same as current	Depends on site; 1 – 8 Years
2	NWC of 47 th and Cicero, including: Cicero frontage between 45 th and 47 th , and 47 th frontage between Cicero and Lamon	4.7 acres	 Highly visible corner Proximity to I-55 Located on high-traffic Cicero Avenue Property owners have expressed interest in developing Inside Cicero/ Archer TIF District 	 Multiple property owners Potentially high speculative land prices Limited depth lots; will likely require land assembly to achieve deeper lots 	Combination	Retail Intertainment / restaurants Mixed-Use with residential above	B3-1 C2-1 RS-2	B3	P3: 8+ Years
3	Underutilized property on Cicero between 47 th and 51 st	5 acres	Sites are readily available Inside Cicero/Archer TIF District	• Limited depth lots	Combination	Auto-oriented commercial Limited service hotel In some cases properties may only require renovation or façade improvement	B1-1 B3-1 B3-3 C2-1	Same as current	Depends on site; 1 - 8 Years

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	Number and Location	Site Size	Strengths	Challenges	Improvement or Redevelopment	Future Development/ Improvement Recommendations	Current Zoning*	Recommend. Zoning**	Development Priority
4	h Street Corridor Vacant Parcels along 47 th between Laramie and Kenton railroad tracks	9 acres	Located on neighborhood collector street with bus access Existing vacant properties Proximity to Hurst School Inside Cicero/Archer TIF District	Perception of 47 th Street as socio-economic divide	Redevelopment	Residential – multi-family mixed income Mixed use: ground floor retail and residential above at select intersections	B1-1 B3-1 B3-3 C2-1 M1-1 M1-2 RS-2 RS-3 RT-4	B2 in interior of corridor B3 at intersections (Laramie, Cicero)	P1: 1 - 5 Years
Arc	her Avenue Corridor								
5	Archer Avenue	n/a	Recent retail development at Archer & Central Few other underutilized parcels on this subcorridor Inside Cicero/Archer or Archer/Central TIF District	Limited depth lots	Improvement	 Renovation or façade improvement for existing office and retail properties 	B3-1 B3-2 C1-1 C2-1 M1-1 M2-1 RT-4	Same as current	P1: 1 – 5 Years
6	NEC of Archer and Knox	2 acres	 Good-sized single parcel Inside 51st/Archer TIF District Potential railroad and access improvements pending under CREATE 	Potential environmental contamination from current use as trucking facility Current access issues due to frequent train crossings Future access may be reduced/eliminated by proposed CREATE grade separation	Combination	Light manufacturing	M1-1	Same as current	P2: 6 - 8 Years
7	SEC of Archer and Cicero, including Cicero frontage south to rail line and Archer frontage east to Knox	7.3 acres	 High visibility corner: gateway to/from Midway Airport Proximity to Airport Inside Cicero/Archer or Midway Industrial Corridor TIF District Potential railroad and access improvements pending under CREATE 	 Access around Knox may be reduced/ eliminated by proposed CREATE grade crossing Requires land assembly from multiple owners to achieve deeper lots High freight train traffic on Kenton Line / 59th Street Branch spur 	Combination	Commercial service / office	B3-1 C2-1 M1-1	Same as current	P2: 6 - 8 Years

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Site Number and Location	Site Size	Strengths	Challenges	Improvement or Redevelopment	Future Development/ Improvement Recommendations	Current Zoning*	Recommend. Zoning**	Development Priority
8 SWC of Archer and Cicero, including Midway Business Center site, Brandy's Restaurant site, Skylark Motel site, and former Indiana Harbor Belt right of way	51+ acres	 Prime corner Proximity to Midway Airport and future airport shuttle Limited number of property owners (4) Property owners have expressed interest in developing Significant size: 51+ acres Inside Midway Industrial Corridor TIF District 	 Will require public-private partnership for funding of significantly-sized development Potential business relocation May require property acquisition Would require building demolition 	Redevelopment	 Hospitality Conference / meeting center Airport support uses Retail 	M2-1	PD, C2, or C3	P1: 1 – 5 Years
Cicero Avenue Corridor - So	outh of 54	t th Street						
9 Underutilized property on Cicero Avenue between 64 th Street and 67 th Street	3.3 acres	 Proximity to Midway Airport Proximity to established base of hotel customers at Midway Hotel Center Majority of properties are currently vacant; property owners have expressed interest in redevelopment Inside Archer/Central TIF District 	Limited depth lots; potential residential acquisition needed to achieve deeper lots Multiple property owners	Combination	Entertainment (restaurants) Convenience retail	B1-1 B3-1	Same as current	P1: 1 – 5 Years
63 rd Street Corridor								
10 63 rd Street	3.4 acres	Proximity to Midway AirportInside Archer/Central TIF District	Noise and traffic from airport Limited depth lots	Combination	 Airport-related commercial uses Airport-related storage Open space	B1-1 B3-1 M1-1 PD-610 PD-584	PD or Zoning Overlay District to serve airport operations	P1: 1 – 5 Years

^{*}Current zoning is per City of Chicago Zoning Map, updated as of August 26, 2004.

^{**} Zoning Recommendations based on new zoning classifications effective November 1, 2004.