

SOUTH SHORE CORRIDOR STUDY

South Shore



SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019



Regional
Transportation
Authority



Greg
MITCHELL
7th Ward Alderman



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



SOUTH SHORE
chamber of commerce

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Office of Alderman Gregory Mitchell (7th Ward) worked to secure a grant through the Regional Transportation Authority’s Community Planning program to develop a plan for two corridors in the South Shore neighborhood: East 75th and East 79th streets, from Stony Island Avenue to Lake Michigan.

Over the remainder of 2019, DPD will continue to work with the community to develop a blueprint for both corridors by focusing on land use, housing, retail and connectivity to transit, within the context of changing demographics. Preliminary work began in January 2019, and has included robust community engagement efforts with assistance from the South Shore Chamber of Commerce. DPD staff expects to complete the study in early 2020.

MEETING

On the evening of Tuesday, September 10, more than 75 residents, business owners, and other South Shore stakeholders convened at Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Paideia Academy for a second public meeting on the South Shore Corridor Study. Aldermen Mitchell (7th) and Harris (8th) attended. The meeting format included a presentation by the project team summarizing its findings and previous community input and engagement, and outlining a series of nine preliminary Ideas for Action.

WHAT WE HEARD

The meeting offered attendees an opportunities to provide feedback on the nine preliminary Ideas for Action, which can be viewed on the [project webpage](#). Attendees participated in small table discussions and addressed a series of questions. These questions and attendees’ responses are detailed below:





1. What do you think about building from areas of strength and focusing resources around key nodes of activity?

There was general consensus around the ideas of building from areas of strength and employing an incremental approach, but there was some debate around what the appropriate key nodes should be. Some questioned 79th and Exchange because of a lack of active or “positive” uses, and others suggested that Jeffery and Yates both provide important nodes with the 75th and 79th Street corridors and should be explored as well.

Other ideas included:

- Look at other studies where building off nodes was successful
- Metra stations and facilities need to be improved for 75th/Exchange and 79th/Exchange to be successful key nodes
- Good idea but business quality must be improved
- Need more parking at key nodes

- The Avalon Regal Theater is a great anchor opportunity
- 79th and Exchange is currently not good: very active but some nuisance activities
- Also important to think holistically and tie node improvements to the broader corridors

2. What do you think about 75th Street transitioning to a more residential character to support commercial growth on 79th Street?

People were generally supportive of 75th Street transitioning to more residential uses, in order to concentrate commercial investment along 79th Street, but expressed a desire to still have some businesses along 75th Street that they would be able to walk to from their homes.

Some additional ideas included:

- Converting 75th Street into a “cultural hub”
- Addressing traffic and

parking along 79th Street will be important

- Incorporate some mixed-use along 75th Street with ground floor retail space
- The idea is totally impractical based on existing buildings
- Create a “public square” somewhere along 75th Street
- Need a timeline for residential development
- Need an interim plan for vacant buildings and storefronts

3. Among the Ideas for Action, are there any that stand out as priorities? Anything you would want to see added?

The following Ideas for Action were identified as priorities:

- Idea for Action #1: have a clear framework for development
- Idea for Action #5: encourage key node renovation
- Idea for Action #9: plan for long term capital investment

Additional ideas for prioritization included:

- Prioritize affordable and mixed-use housing options
- Prioritize new restaurants, cafes, and sit-down dining establishments
- Start with the nodes along Exchange Avenue (75th and Exchange, 79th and Exchange)
- Encourage artist pop-ups and murals along 75th Street
- Improve safety along both corridors and throughout the community

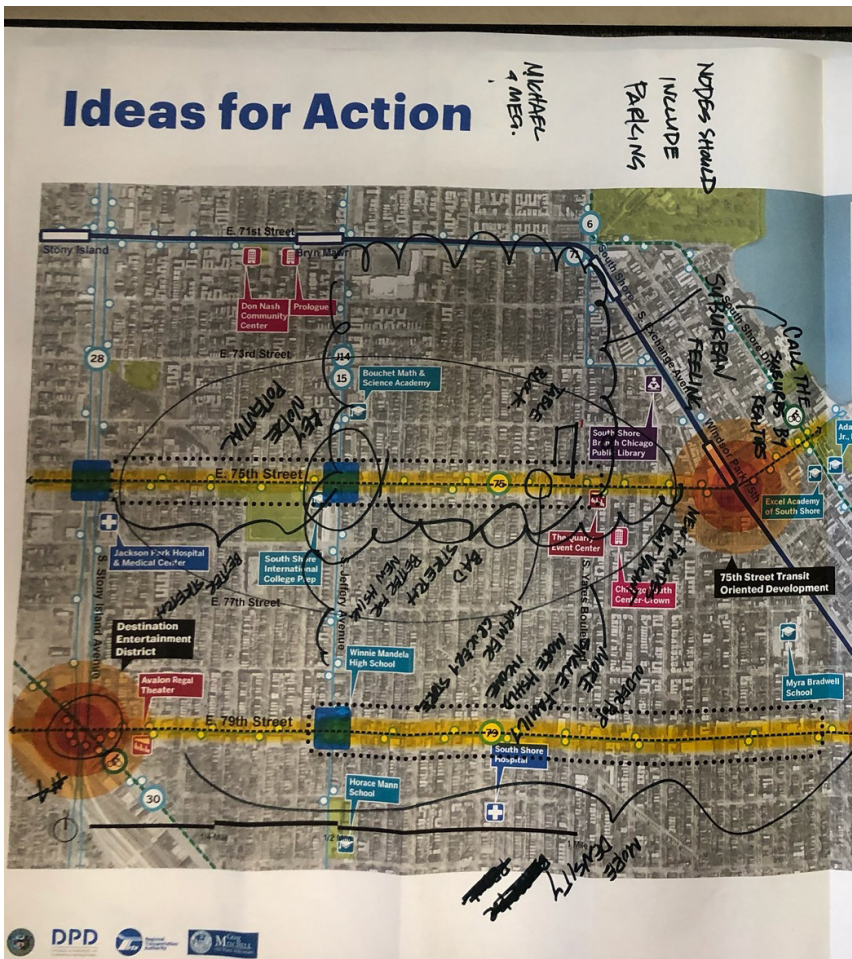
4. Where along the corridor would you prioritize community-led projects, such as murals, temporary pedestrian realm improvements, or urban greening?

- The entire 79th Street corridor
- 79th Street and Exchange Avenue, with murals, street art, and sculptures
- 79th Street & Stony Island Avenue, underneath the skyway ramps
- 75th Street and Coles Avenue
- Vacant lots along both corridors
- 75th Street
- 79th Street between Jeffery and Exchange

5. What resources exist in the community to support the Ideas for Action?

Block clubs

- Community organizations
- Loyal, active and engaged residents
- South Shore Chamber of Commerce
- South Shore Works
- Neighborhood Network Alliance
- Park Advisory Council
- Common's new school
- Aldermen
- African American culture
- Local authors, artists and musicians
- Alliance of the South East
- South Shore Opera Co.



STAY INFORMED

DPD will post upcoming meeting dates and materials on the official project webpage:

<http://bit.ly/SouthShoreStudy>

Please email DPD with any questions, or if you would like to be added to our contact database to receive notices for future public meetings and engagement events:

DPD@cityofchicago.org