

BELMONT CRAGIN NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE NETWORK

Neighborhood Taskforce
Meeting #2

April 13, 2021



GOALS FOR TODAY

- ▶ Recap what we heard at the last meeting
- ▶ Review short-term projects for Belmont Cragin
- ▶ Discuss potential designs for short-term projects
- ▶ Discuss outreach with the community

INTRODUCTIONS

- ▶ Is there anyone new who could not join us for the first taskforce meeting?
- ▶ What initiatives is your group working on in Belmont Cragin? How can bicycling contribute to that effort?

WHAT WE HEARD

What's already going on in Belmont Cragin?

- ▶ Bicycling is a vital transportation option, especially for young people
- ▶ Youth Council pushing for transportation investment in Belmont Cragin

How to engage with the community

- ▶ Trusted messengers are important when discussing biking with the community
- ▶ Engage with young people, especially through the schools
- ▶ Boots on the ground/meet people where they are
- ▶ The Taskforce is ready to help spread the word

WHAT WE HEARD

Perceptions of biking in Belmont Cragin

- ▶ Lots of young people already riding bikes
- ▶ Biking can be faster and more reliable than riding the bus
- ▶ Biking is a great way to stay healthy and get exercise
- ▶ Concern that bike infrastructure will remove parking and increase congestion

Barriers to biking in Belmont Cragin

- ▶ Lack of bike infrastructure
- ▶ Lack of bike parking at destinations
- ▶ Many hesitant to get on a bike due to dangerous/unpredictable behavior by motor vehicles

WHAT WE HEARD

Streets and destinations important to Belmont Cragin

- ▶ Connect to schools, parks, transit, shopping, and other community assets
- ▶ Connect to Milwaukee Ave bike lanes and the bike network
- ▶ Belmont and Diversey commercial corridors are vital connections but don't feel safe

WHAT WE'VE DONE SINCE LAST MEETING

- ▶ Developed a draft network of bike routes based on your feedback and identified what is possible on each street
- ▶ Looked at traffic crashes in Belmont Cragin
- ▶ Coordinated resources to provide more bike parking this year in Belmont Cragin
- ▶ Coordinating bike education events in Belmont Cragin
- ▶ Developed a survey to better understand how people get around in the neighborhood
- ▶ Created materials to help you start talking about this effort with your neighbors

DRAFT BIKE NETWORK

- ▶ Short-term projects we can install in 2021 and 2022
- ▶ Long-term projects which need more collaboration and analysis before they can be installed

TRAFFIC CRASHES IN BELMONT CRAGIN

Belmont Cragin is a High Crash Area

In five years (2014-2018):

- ▶ Over 14,000 traffic crashes (2,800 per year)
- ▶ 2,800 people injured (560 per year)
- ▶ 14 people killed (nearly three per year)
- ▶ Most crashes occur on arterial/commercial streets
- ▶ Belmont Ave a hot spot for crashes involving people walking and biking

DEVELOPING THE NETWORK

Over 16 miles of short-term projects in Belmont Cragin

- ▶ Street grid provides lots of options
- ▶ Narrow commercial streets limit opportunity for protected bike lanes in the short term

Developed a network based on:

- ▶ Connections to important destinations and the existing bike network
- ▶ Geographical coverage in the neighborhood
- ▶ What designs are possible to install this year

DEVELOPING THE NETWORK

	Streets	Bikeways	%
Today in Belmont Cragin	116 miles	4.7 miles	4%
After Short-Term Projects	116 miles	19.4 miles	17%
Chicago Average			8%

PRIMARY STUDY AREA

Existing Bikeway Infrastructure

- Bikeway

Draft Potential Bikeway Projects

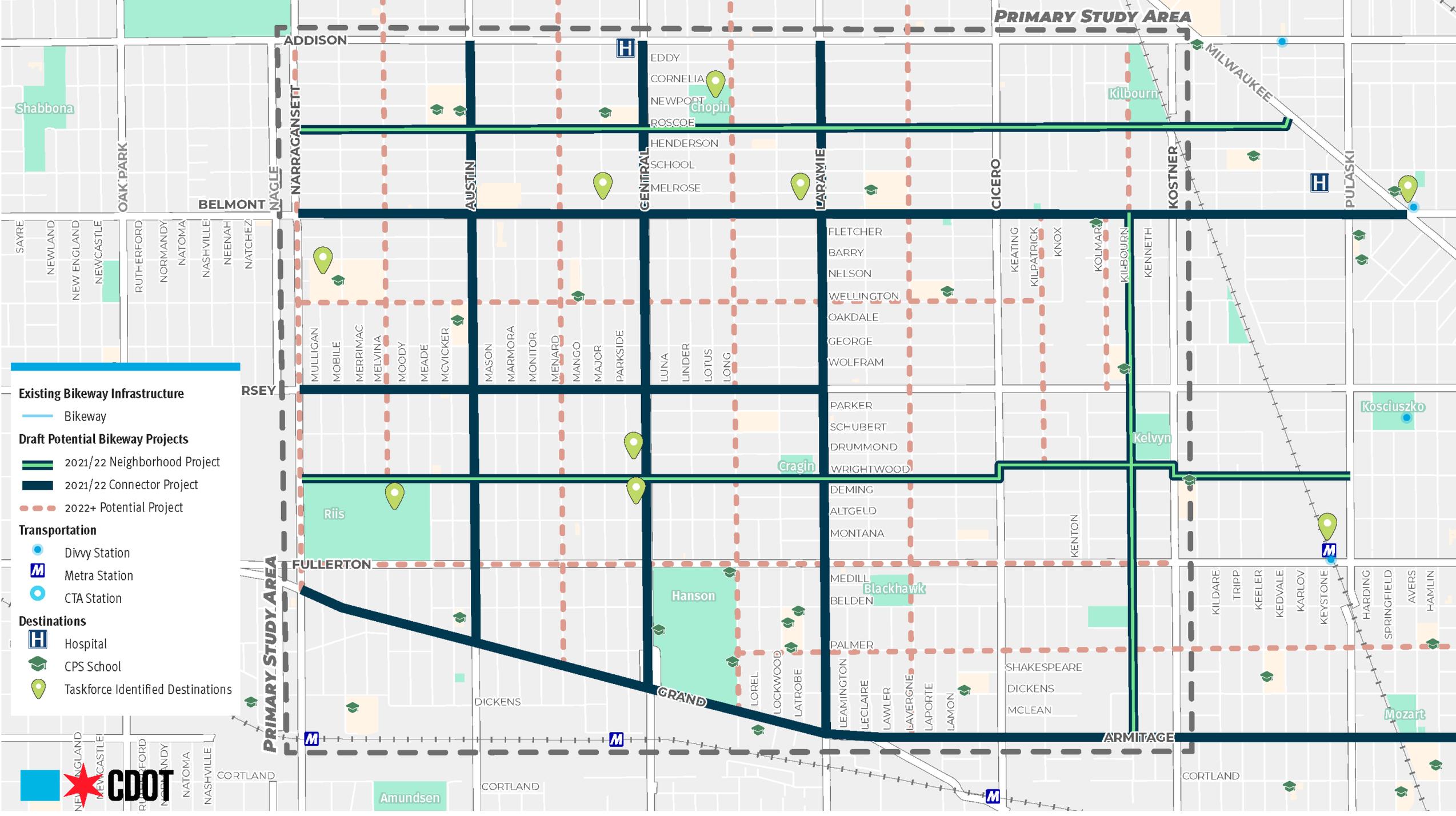
- 2021/22 Neighborhood Project
- 2021/22 Connector Project
- 2022+ Potential Project

Transportation

- Divvy Station
- Metra Station
- CTA Station

Destinations

- Hospital
- CPS School
- Taskforce Identified Destinations



PROPOSED DESIGNS

- ▶ What can be designed and installed this year
- ▶ Does not mean we cannot upgrade these projects in the future
- ▶ Help us identify who we need to talk to for each route (block groups, churches, important businesses, etc)

MAKING BIKE ROUTES MORE COMFORTABLE

Separating Bikes from Cars

- ▶ Consolidating on-street parking to install protected bike lanes

Reducing the Speed of Cars

- ▶ Lowering the speed limit to 20 MPH, installing speed humps and pedestrian bumpouts

Reducing the Number of Cars

- ▶ Prohibiting cut through traffic on neighborhood streets

Each strategy requires tradeoffs. Help us find the right balance for each street.

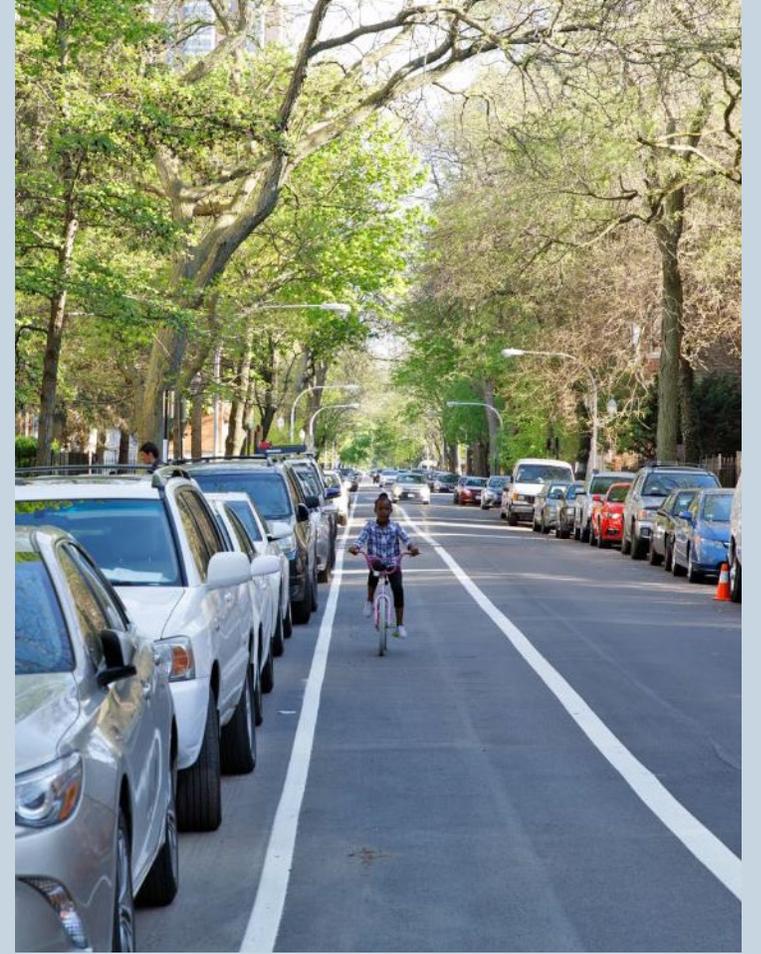
NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE ROUTES

- ▶ Low-volume residential streets (side streets) that are designated for people biking
- ▶ Low-stress alternative to busy arterial streets
- ▶ Connect to community assets
- ▶ Traffic signals/stop signs to cross most busy intersections

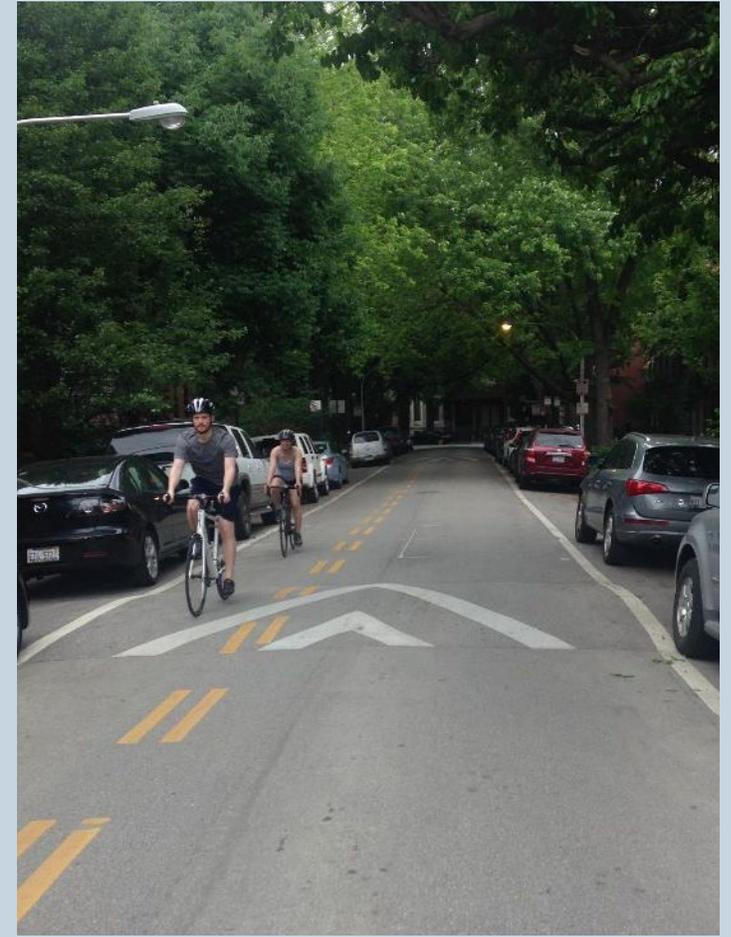
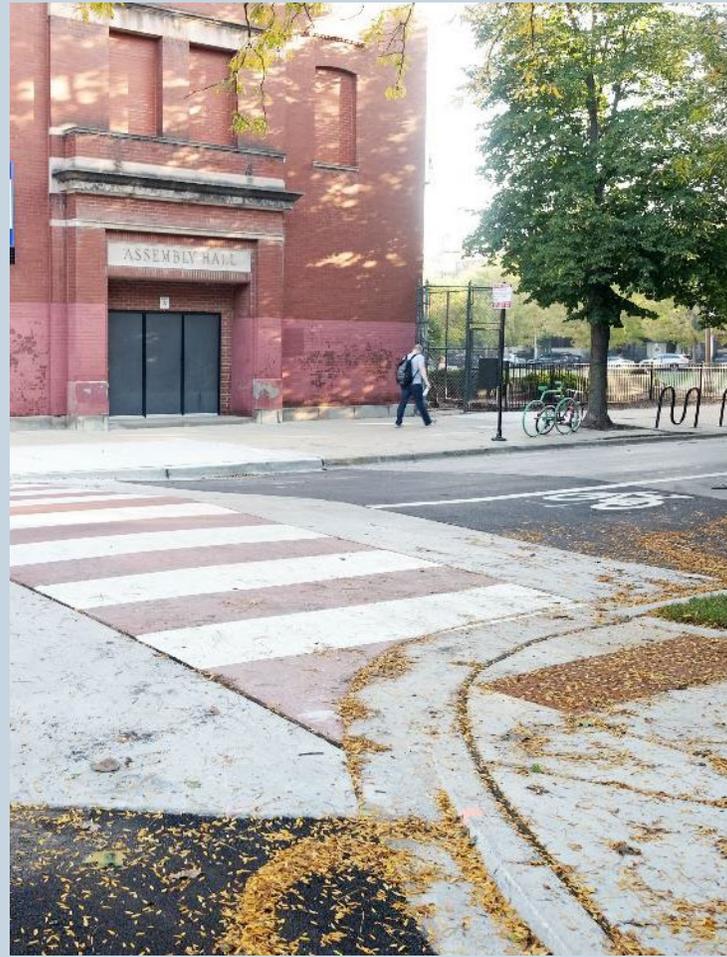
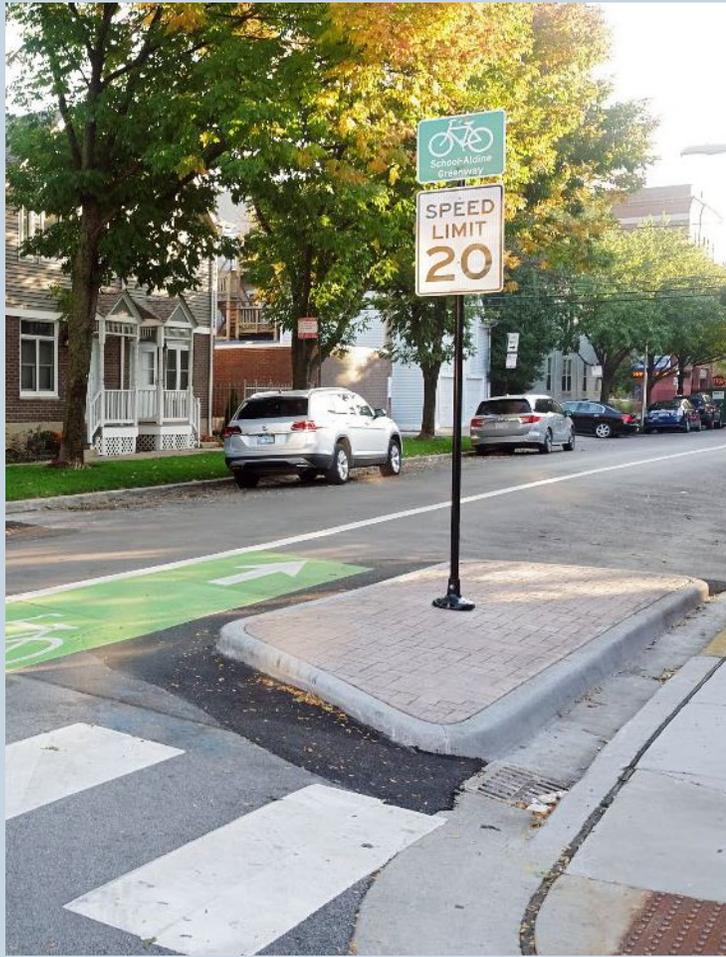
Can be made more comfortable by:

- ▶ **Reducing the Speed of Cars** – Traffic calming elements to encourage safe travel speeds by people driving
- ▶ **Reducing the Number of Cars** – Prohibiting cut-through traffic at strategic locations

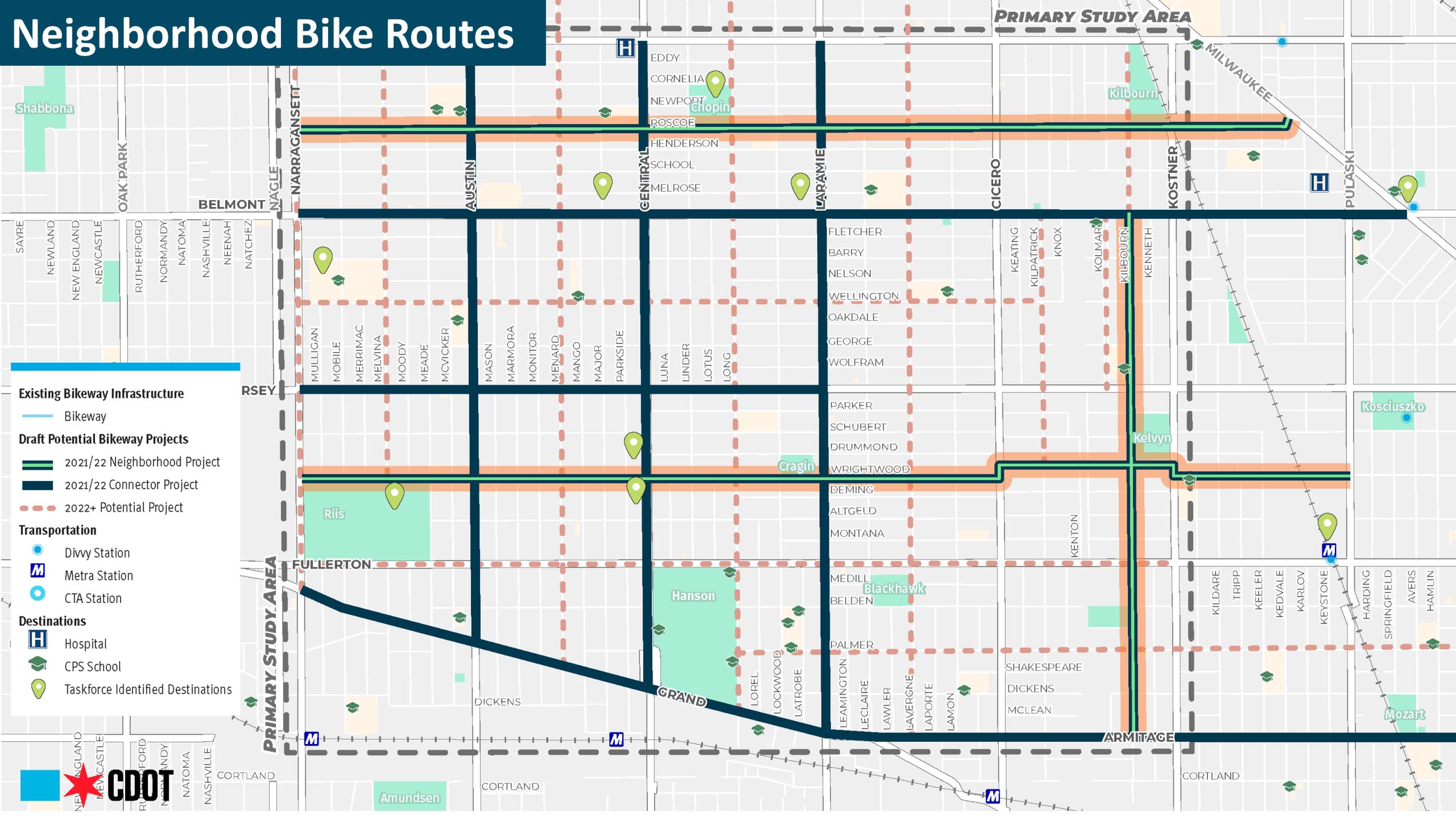
NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE ROUTE



TRAFFIC CALMING



Neighborhood Bike Routes



Existing Bikeway Infrastructure

- Bikeway

Draft Potential Bikeway Projects

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- 2022+ Potential Project

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BIKE LANES

- ▶ Commercial streets in Belmont Cragin are very narrow
- ▶ Limited opportunity for protected bike lanes in the short term without significant tradeoffs with on-street parking

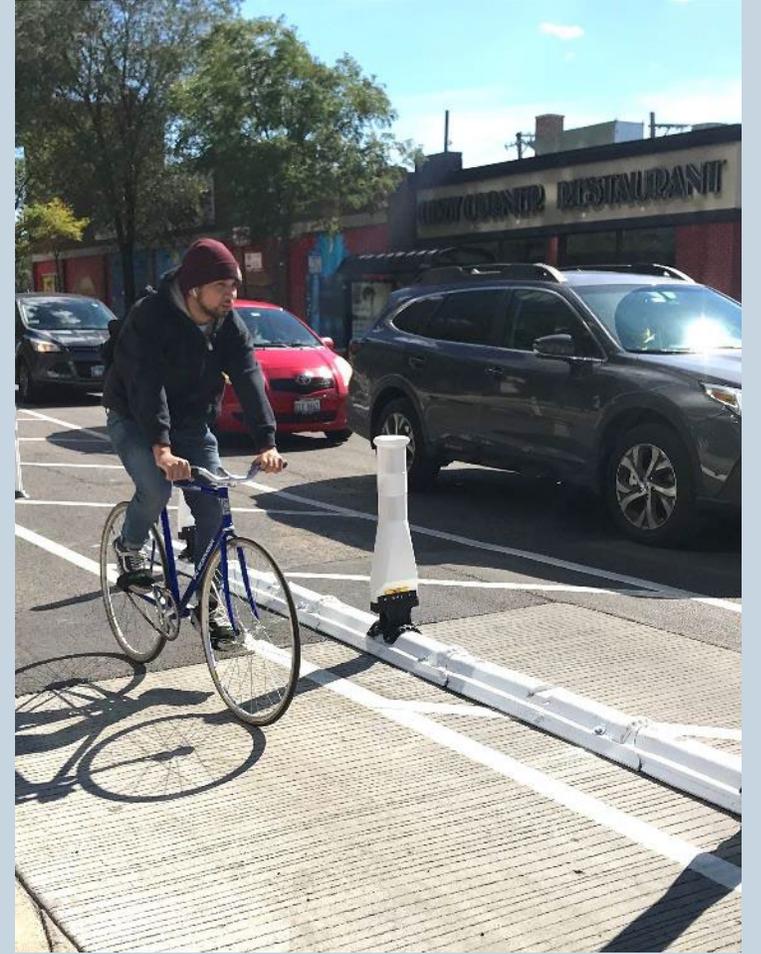
Streets can be made more comfortable by:

- ▶ **Separating Bikes from Cars** – Consolidating on-street parking to install protected bike lanes
- ▶ **Reducing the Speed of Cars** – Traffic calming elements to encourage safe travel speeds by people driving

BIKE LANES



PROTECTED BIKE LANES



NEXT STEPS FOR OUTREACH

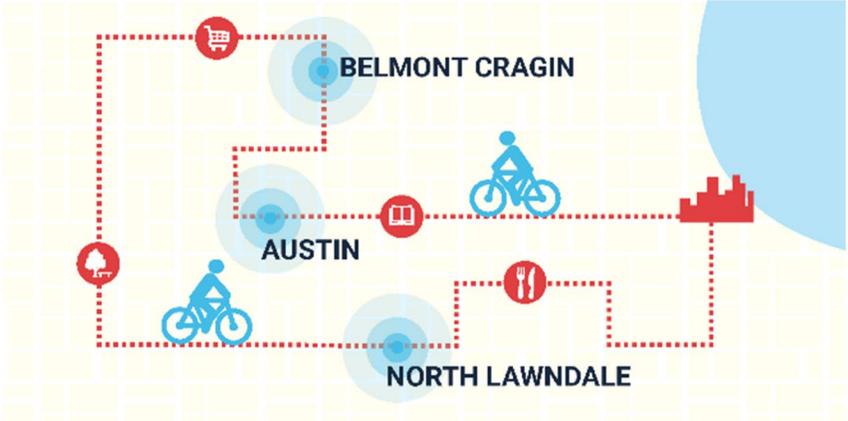
- ▶ Promoting the survey
- ▶ Conversations with youth organizations
- ▶ General outreach for the effort
- ▶ Targeted outreach for specific routes

ONLINE SURVEY

- ▶ Will help us understand how people currently and want to get around and how bicycling is perceived
- ▶ Will help direct our outreach
- ▶ Need your help promoting the survey
- ▶ Flyers, text, and graphics you can distribute via email, social media, newsletters, and events
- ▶ We can send printed flyers to you



NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE NETWORKS



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is partnering with community members to identify and build a connected bicycle network in 2021 in the Austin, Belmont Cragin, and North Lawndale neighborhoods. This will include on-street bike routes linking together schools, parks, local businesses, and other important destinations so people have safe, healthy, and fun options for getting around the neighborhood. Making our streets more comfortable for biking will improve safety and accessibility for everyone.

Take a short online survey to help us understand how you choose to get around in your neighborhood, how bicycling is perceived in the community, and how a network of bike routes may impact you. This survey is your first opportunity to get involved in this exciting effort.



Scan the QR code on your mobile phone to take you directly to the survey.

Help us make biking safe, convenient, and better connected to the places you want and need to go in your community.

bit.ly/CDOTBikes

The survey is available in English and Spanish and will remain open until May 31, 2021.

For questions related to the project or online survey, visit the project website at chicago.com/completestreets.org/projects/active-projects/ or contact the Public Involvement Lead Berenice Alvarez at balvarez@morrealecomm.com or 773-413-9392.

April 2021

OTHER OUTREACH

- ▶ Scheduling meetings with youth organizations to talk about these proposed projects
- ▶ What important community events are coming up in Belmont Cragin?
- ▶ How can we help you talk about this effort with the community?
- ▶ We want to begin targeted outreach with key stakeholders along each route
 - Block clubs, churches, important businesses, etc

THANK YOU!

- ▶ Let's continue the conversation. We can email, talk on the phone, or schedule a follow up virtual meeting.
- ▶ The third Taskforce meeting is planned for May
- ▶ Online map for feedback coming soon