

# Damen Elston Fullerton Reconstruction and Realignment Project



View of Damen and Fullerton Looking North



## Project Highlights

- Several buildings are being demolished at the beginning of the project, including the old Whirlyball building and former Dunkin Donuts to make way for the new roadway.
- Construction of the realigned Elston Avenue which includes protected bike lanes and new utilities including a separate storm sewer system
- Installation of three (3) new interconnected traffic signals with better spacing, improved turning radii and improved pedestrian accommodations at N. Damen, N. Elston, and W. Fullerton Avenues
- Widening of N. Damen Avenue to include a striped bike lane from the Damen Avenue bridge to Fullerton Avenue, and a marked shared lane south of Fullerton
- Full width roadway resurfacing on Fullerton and Damen Avenues
- Reconstruction of existing Elston Avenue south of Fullerton (Elston Court) to provide new wider sidewalks, update drainage with new curbs, gutters, and install new street lights with piggyback acorn pedestrian lights
- New modern davit street lighting on all project streets with energy efficient, LED white light
- New sidewalks, curbs and gutter and driveways on all streets
- Planting of several new green spaces and over 150 new trees, reducing one of the largest “heat islands” in the City
- New signs and pavement marking on all project streets

## Project Overview

Beginning in the last week of May 2015, CDOT will start a major project to improve traffic flow and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists at the intersection of Damen, Elston and Fullerton. This location has historically had one of the highest crash rates in Chicago. Currently, it could take up to seven minutes to drive through it. The project will realign and reconstruct N. Elston Ave. and its intersections with N. Damen and W. Fullerton Avenues, improving safety and reducing congestion throughout the project area. It will also widen N. Damen Ave. to provide better bike accommodations, widen the north sidewalk along W. Fullerton Ave., and include the resurfacing of all streets within the project limits. The existing section of N. Elston Ave. south of Fullerton will be renamed N. Elston Court and will be reconstructed with a right-in/ right-out at Fullerton.

This project was designed by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and its consultant Alfred Benesch Company, in coordination with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. The general roadway contractor is R.W. Dunteman Company. The construction supervision team is led by Civiltech Engineering.

## Traffic Impacts

Lane restrictions will be required on all streets in the project area. At least one lane in each direction will be maintained on all streets throughout the project. Left and right turns may be detoured during different phases of the project. Notices will be posted on any required detours at least one week prior to changes.

CDOT recommends people driving through the project area avoid the construction if possible by utilizing alternate east-west streets such as W. Diversey (2800 N), W. Webster (2200 N), and W. North Avenues (1600 N), and using N. Ashland (1600 W) and N. Clybourn Avenues as north-south alternates. For people riding their bikes, "Shared Lane Yield to Bikes" signs will be posted on Damen and Elston throughout construction. As an alternate north-south route, CDOT recommends utilizing W. Cortland Street, N. Clybourn Avenue, and W. Diversey Avenue for people riding through the project area.

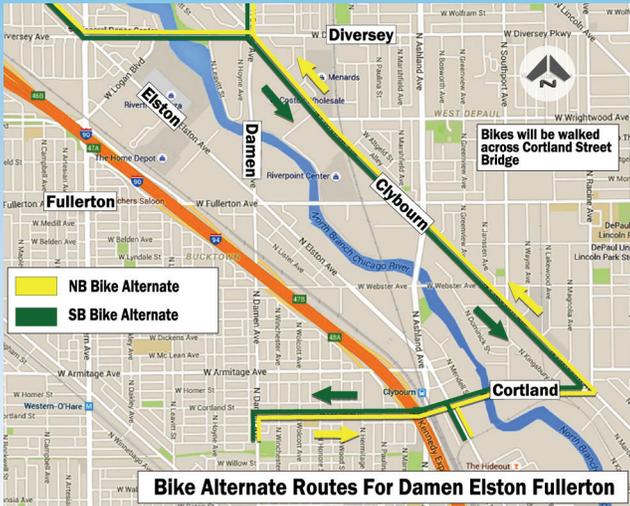
Damen and Elston will both be reduced to one lane in each direction, north of Fullerton from the beginning of the project in late May through the end of 2015.

Fullerton is expected to be reduced to one lane in each direction from June through Labor Day.

**The project is scheduled for substantial completion at the end of 2016. The new section of Elston should be open in the late spring of 2016.**

CTA bus stops within the project will be relocated to accommodate construction. For more information, please call the CTA information hotline at: (all Chicagoland area codes) 836-7000.

For additional information, please call the Department of Transportation at (312) 744-5900, email [cdotnews@cityofchicago.org](mailto:cdotnews@cityofchicago.org), visit [www.cityofchicago.org/transportation](http://www.cityofchicago.org/transportation).



View of N. Elston Ave. Looking North



### Damen Elston Fullerton

- Phase 1 - June through August**
- Lane Closures on Damen, Elston, and Fullerton
  - Demolition of Remaining buildings,
  - Utility Work on Elston Reroute