The 78 Community Advisory Council
Investing in Neighborhoods
Connecting Chinatown to the South Loop
October 2, 2020

Design Consultant:  Construction Management  Contractor:

Renderings provided by:
The Wells Wentworth (WW) Connector
From Railyard to New Neighborhood

1960s – IDOT contemplates extending 90/94 north
2040 – the 78, Chicago’s next neighborhood
**WW³: Chicago River Realignment & RRs**

- 1929 – Chicago River Realignment in progress
- Area dominated by up to 9 Railroads on both sides of the River
- Access limited by geography on water and on land.
- Former location will influence design/challenges of W/W project

Proposal for the straightening of the river (Encyclopedia of Chicago)
WW$^3$: From Railyard to Land of Opportunity

The 78, looking north from 16th Street between the Chicago River and Clark
Wells Wentworth Connector
60+ Years in the Making: Why now?
Wells Wentworth Connector
60+ Years in the Making: Why now?

- IDOT Starting Studying Franklin Connector (1960’s)
- Need north south connection / collector street to unlock vacant property with the advent of development of Loop, South loop & redevelopment of Chinatown
- Prioritized when River South TIF created
WW¹: Ping Tom Memorial Park Access
South Wentworth – 17ᵗʰ to 19ᵗʰ Streets

improvements on S. Wentworth Av., W. 17ᵗʰ to W. 19ᵗʰ Streets
WW¹: Ping Tom Fieldhouse Access
New Sidewalks/ 18th St. Signal

S. Wentworth at W. 19th St, looking north
WW¹: Ping Tom Fieldhouse Access
New Sidewalks/ 18th St. Signal

S. Wentworth at W. 19th St, looking north
WW²: Realigned Wentworth/ Cermak Plaza Directional Gateway for both sides of Ping Tom
WW³: Construction Utilities 2019

Nov. 2019- Utilidor Construction

June 2019 – ComEd vault
WW³: Construction Utilities 2020
WW³: RR Bridges – Preliminary demolition

The 78, looking north from 16th Street between the Chicago River and Clark

The ‘78’
WW³: Construction 2020 - New Pavement

Looking North along new Wells Street
Newly poured concrete base pavement for
1200 S. to 1430 S. Wells Street
Looking North along new Wells Street, 1st layer of asphalt being placed 1200 S. to 1430 S. Wells Street
Looking south along newly poured curb and base course of Wells Street
1330-1500 S. Wells St.
WW³: Construction 2020 - New Pavement

Drone footage of Wells Wentworth August 2020

WW³: 2020 Construction - Retaining Walls
**WW³: New Wentworth Viaduct Retaining Walls**

New Retaining Wall, west side of Wentworth just north of new viaduct at 16\textsuperscript{th} St.

Looking South West along new Wentworth just north of 16\textsuperscript{th} St.
WW³: Future Construction 2020-2021
2 new Bridges/ Viaducts
St. Charles Air Line Bridge over Wells

Looking South towards the SCAL bridge to be replaced. Can see former path of the railroads that used to run under this bridge now there will be a road run underneath and the center columns will be removed.
WW³: CN Freeport RR over Wentworth
E-W Ping Tom Park Access
WW3: 2021 Construction - Wentworth Ave
WW³: Wells Street/ Dual Parkways/ Bike Path

South Wells Street – West Roosevelt Road to West 16th Street
South Wentworth Avenue – West 16th Street to West 17th Street
New dual parkway separated by new bike path off street
**WW³**: Wells Street/ Dual Parkways/ Bike Path

Rendering of new raised cross walk and
New dual parkway separated by new bike path off street
WW³: Wells Street/ Dual Parkways/ Bike Path

Rendering of Wells Street looking South
The Future: Wells St Connected, Complete Street

Conceptual rendering of fully developed Wells Street Off Street Bike Path, Wide Sidewalks, Complete Streets