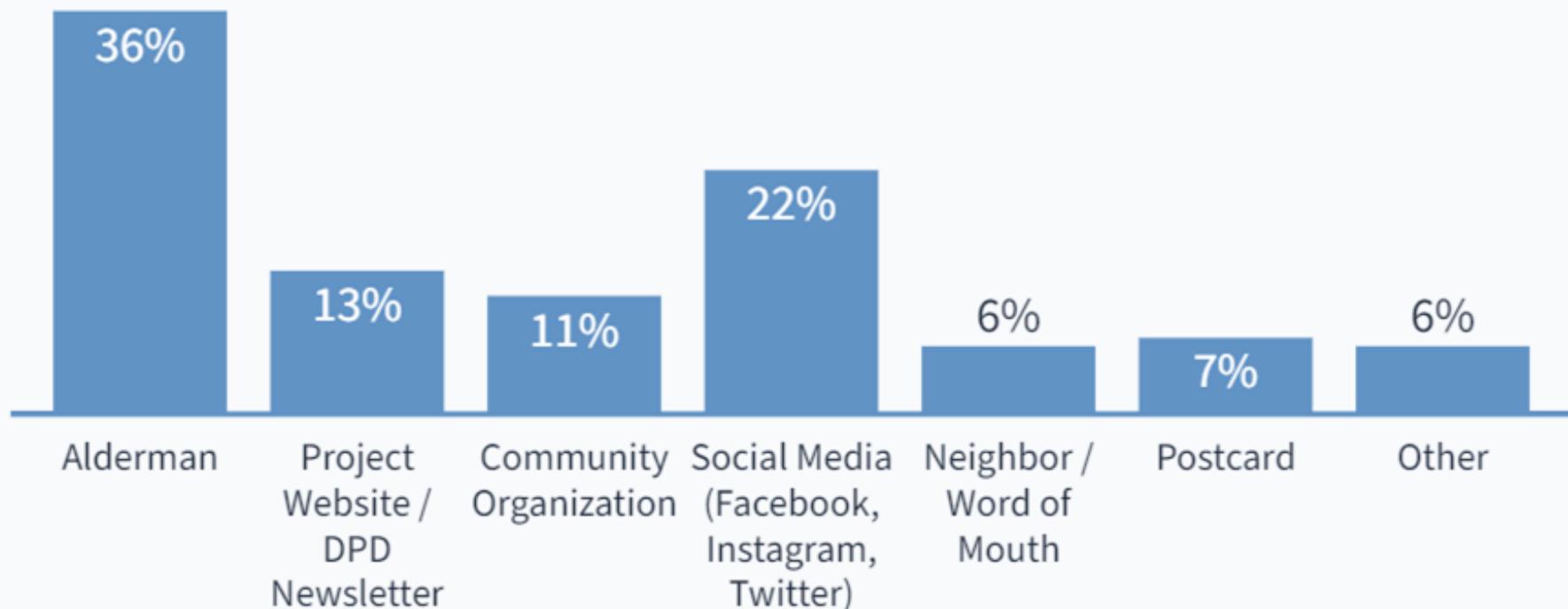


When poll is active, respond at Pollev.com/sitesdesign

Text **SITEDESIGN** to **22333** once to join

How did you learn about today's event?





WESTERN AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY

Public Event | 01.27.21

Meeting Purpose

Inform and Listen

- ☒ **Introduce the community** to the Western Avenue Corridor Study and planning process
- ☒ Start **gathering initial input** to create a community-led, long-term vision for the Western Avenue corridor, from Addison to Howard.
- ☒ Share resources for **additional feedback opportunities**



Submitting Questions During the Meeting

- Enter questions in the Zoom “Q&A” window at any point in the meeting

- Panelists may:
 - Provide written responses
 - Answer the question verbally at the end of the meeting
 - Aggregate unanswered questions into “FAQ” to be posted and distributed after the meeting

Submitting Comments or Questions After the Meeting

- Fill out the survey, linked at chicago.gov/western
- Email WesternAve@cityofchicago.org

City of Chicago Planning Team



Katharyn Hurd

City Planner, North Region



Michael Berkshire

North Region Lead Planner



Lubka Benak

Director of Livable Streets



Gerardo Garcia

Deputy
Commissioner



Claudia Herasme

Managing
Deputy Commissioner



Jim Harbin

Deputy
Commissioner



Ellen Schmidt

Streetscape & Sustainable Design Program

**Department of Planning
and Development (DPD)**

**Chicago Department of
Transportation (CDOT)**

Alderman Group



Alderman
Matt Martin
47th Ward



Alderman
Andre Vasquez
40th Ward



Alderman
Debra Silverstein
50th Ward



Alderman
Maria Hadden
49th Ward

Consultant Team



site

Project Leadership
Planning & Urban Design



Sam Schwartz
Mobility &
Transportation



SOM
Planning &
Urban Design



Latent Design
Architecture &
Urban Design
Support



Borderless Studio
Community
Engagement



**Territory
Youth**
Engagement
Collaborator

Working Groups

Steering Committee

- + Guide planning team
- + Draft material review and engagement support

Youth Council

- + Provide youth engagement and perspective
- + Group activities

Focus Groups & Interviews

- + Feedback on specific topics or geographies, throughout the process
- + If you'd like to be considered for a focus group, please email WesternAve@cityofchicago.org



Western Avenue Today... Pedestrian Environment



Western and Glenlake



Western and Lawrence



Western and Granville



Western and Devon

Western Avenue Today... Commercial and Retail



Western and Montrose



Western and Addison



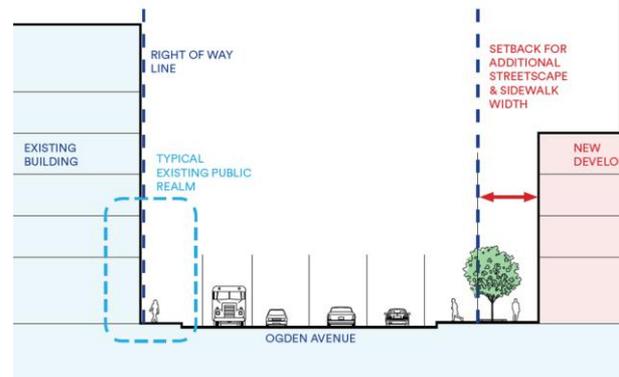
Western and Granville



Western and Catalpa

Western Avenue Today... New Development





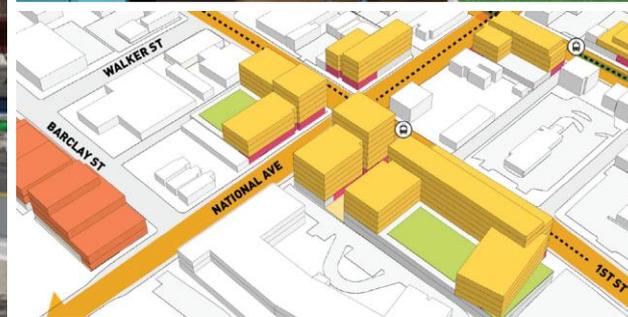
West Loop Design Guidelines (site)

How do we imagine the *future* of Western Avenue?



Detroit East Riverfront Framework Plan
(SOM + Sam Schwartz)

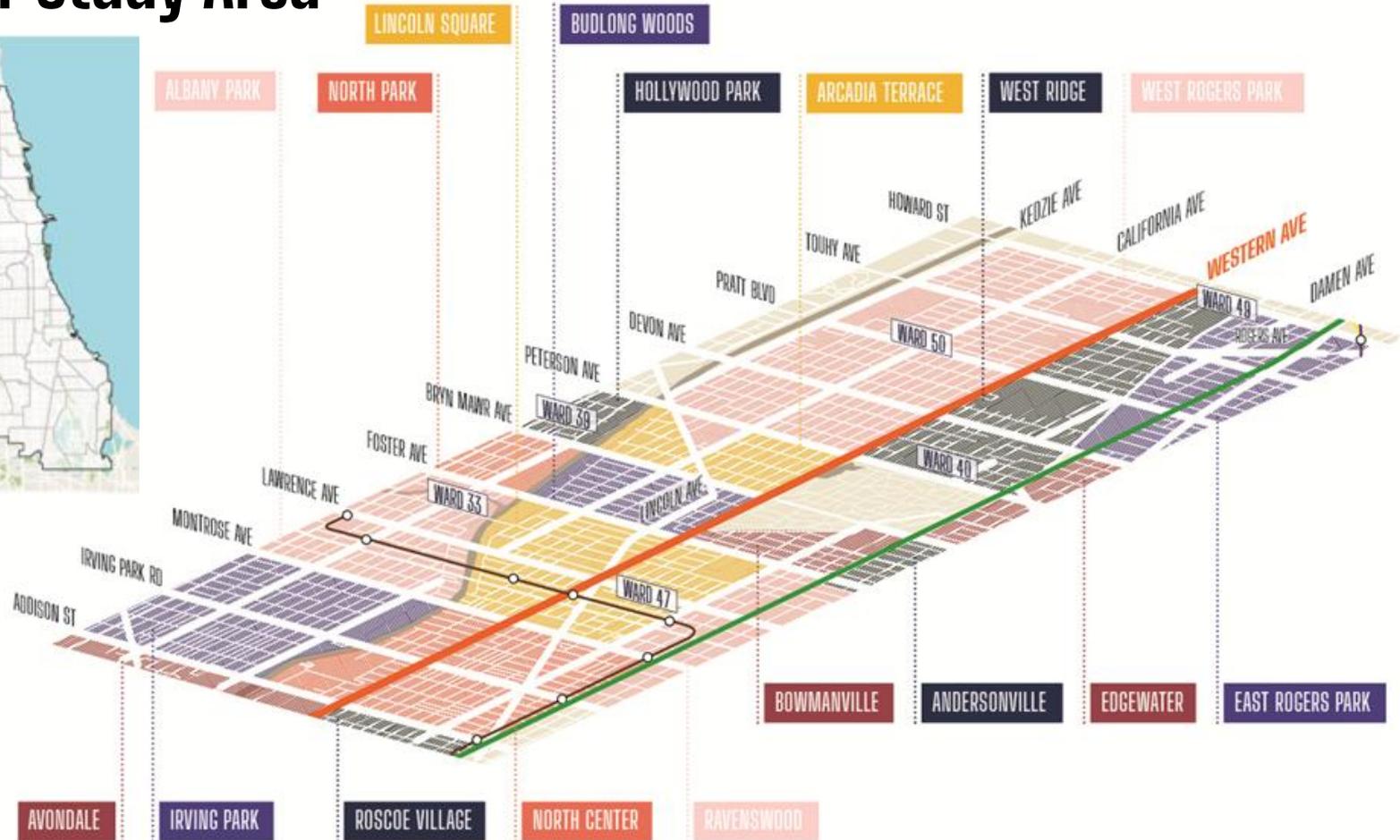
How do we imagine the *future* of Western Avenue?



Milwaukee Equitable Growth TOD
Planning Study (SOM)

How do we imagine the *future* of Western Avenue?

Corridor Study Area



Initial Study Goals

The study aims to analyze and identify the potential to:

- + Increase **density** where appropriate and identify to what degree density should be increased.
- + Promote a **greater mix of land uses**.
- + Improve how development **relates to the surrounding community**.
- + Enhance the **pedestrian experience and safety** along the five-mile stretch of the corridor, while maintaining the corridor as a main arterial street.



63rd and Cottage Grove Neighborhood Hub (SOM)

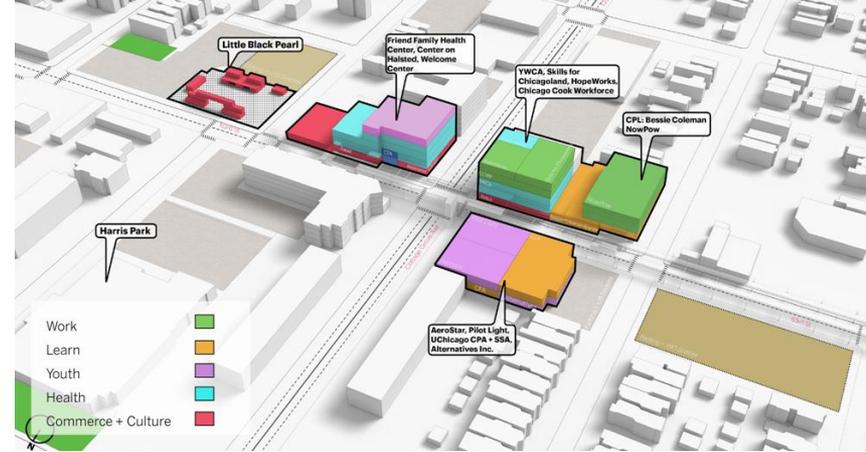


East Jefferson Corridor Enhancement Plan (Sam Schwartz)

Expected Study Deliverables

The final document will be a report that presents:

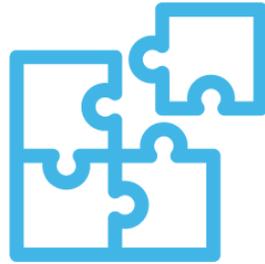
- + **Long-term vision** for the corridor that will include **future land use, zoning, development, and infrastructure recommendations**
 - + Opportunity sites for future development
 - + Public realm improvements
 - + Mobility improvements
- + **Design guidelines** along the corridor
- + **Resource Reference Guide** for stakeholders



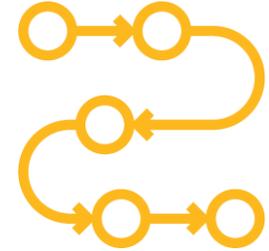
Participation Principles: The Corridor



We will envision the **long-term future** grounded in data-driven and feasible strategies.



We will create a **collective vision** for Western Avenue that acknowledges the **diverse conditions** of the entire five-mile corridor from Addison to Howard.

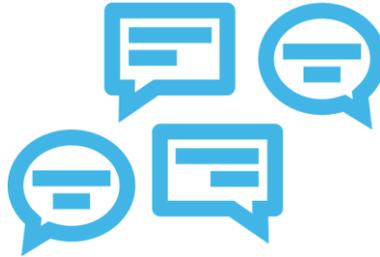


A cohesive long-term vision is the **first of many steps** toward change. **Implementation will entail future projects** with their own processes.

Participation Principles: The Conversation



We will be transparent by **sharing relevant information, ideas, and concerns** with one another.



We will seek inclusion by **listening to as many voices as possible** while embracing productive tensions and respectful disagreements.



We will **communicate in good faith**, in a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect.



WESTERN AVE CORRIDOR STUDY



An Introduction to Western

Cook County-owned roadway.

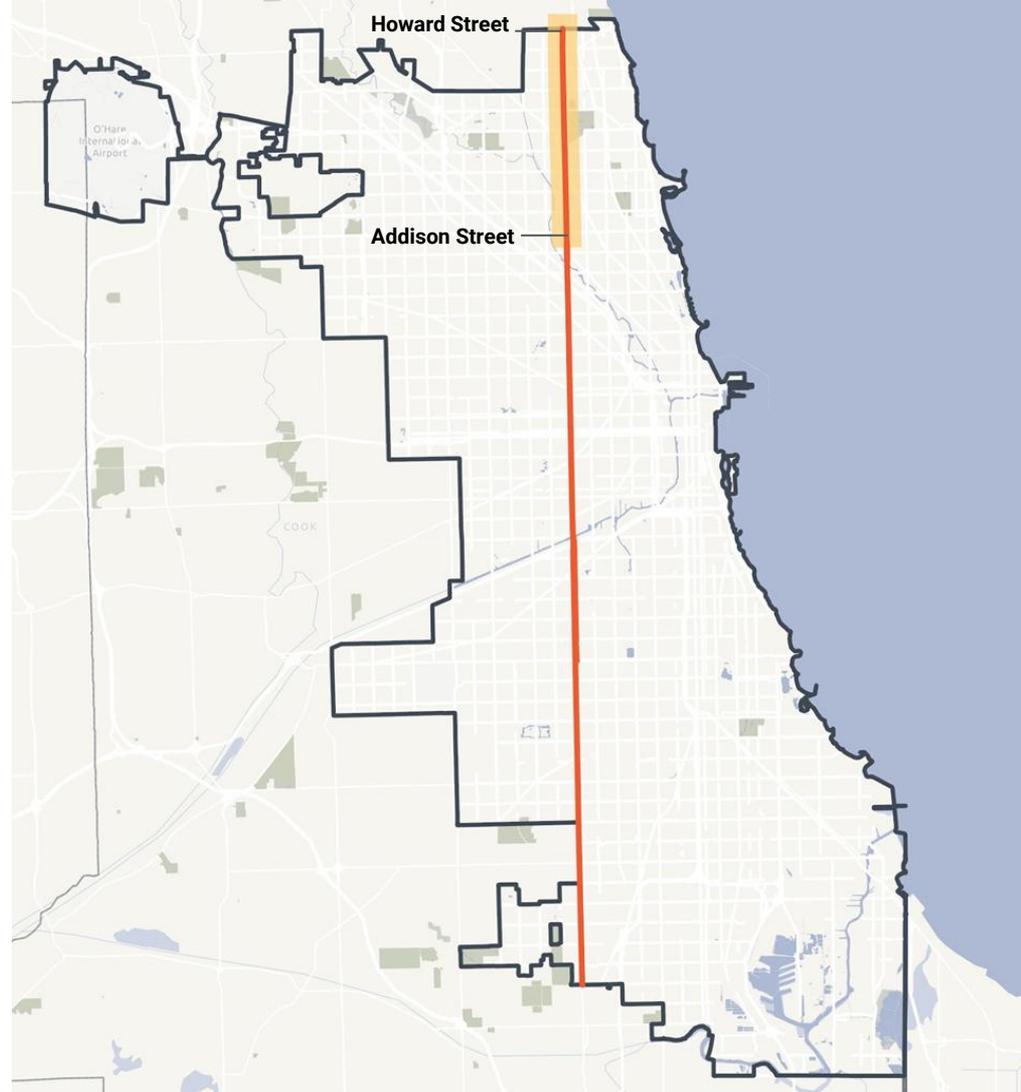
“Chicago’s longest street” at **27 miles**.

Connects **16 of the 77 community areas**.

Between 1851 and 1869, it was the **western boundary of the City**.

Local Street Classification:

- Howard-Peterson: **minor arterial**
- Peterson-Addison: **principal arterial**



Western as a Key Connector

Long-time critical thoroughfare to move both people and goods:

- Western Avenue **streetcar (1900s)**
- CTA Route 49 - **9th highest ridership route**
- **Nine (9) buses + the Brown Line** cross the corridor
- **Transit Signal Priority (TSP)** implemented
- One of 6-8 corridors slated for additional **Bus Priority Zone (BPZ)** program improvements



Moving People

Traffic volumes highest along **southern portion of Western corridor**

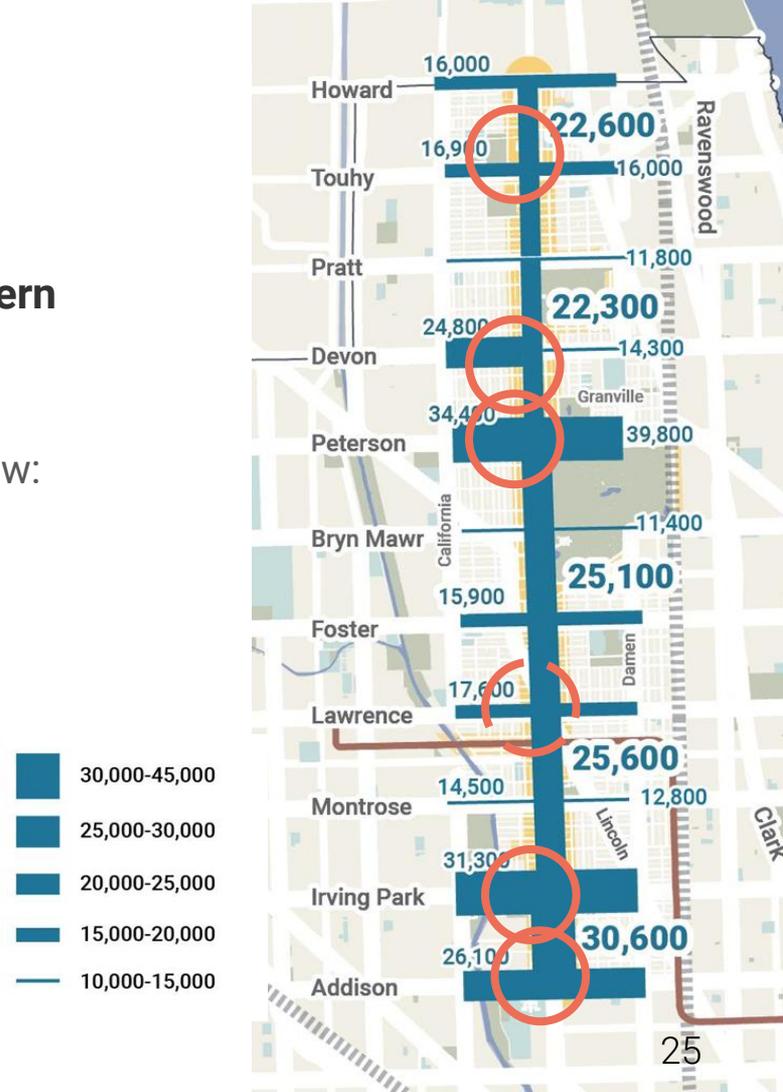
Busiest intersections:

1. Peterson / Western
2. Irving Park / Western
3. Addison / Western
4. Devon / Western
5. Touhy / Western
6. Lawrence / Western*

Highest east-west traffic flow:

1. Peterson (US 14)
2. Irving Park (IL 19)
3. Addison
4. Devon

* *Brown Line Connection*



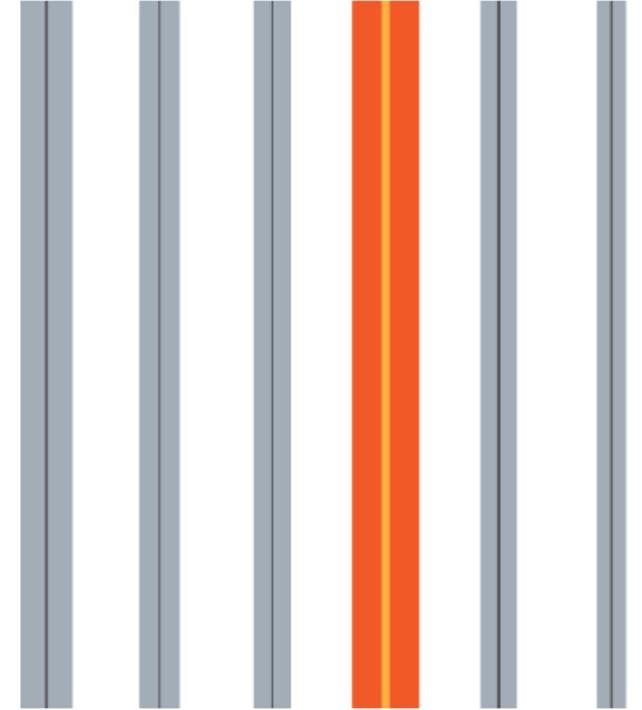
Moving People and Goods

Truck ADT/	1,350/	870/	900/	3,600/	1,675/	1,250/
Total ADT	23,700	18,300	17,000	30,600	26,500	13,200



11.7%

of Western Ave total average daily traffic are **trucks**



Cicero Pulaski Kedzie **Western** Ashland/Ridge Clark



A Growing Corridor

Growing Community Area populations

Higher population density and larger households to the north.

Smaller households to the south.

More non-residential use to the south:
cemetery, recreation, hospital, business park

102,806

Population

41,058

Households

2.47

Avg Size Household

36.2

Median Age

\$67,299

Median Household Income

\$365,138

Median Home Value

**within a half mile of Western Avenue*

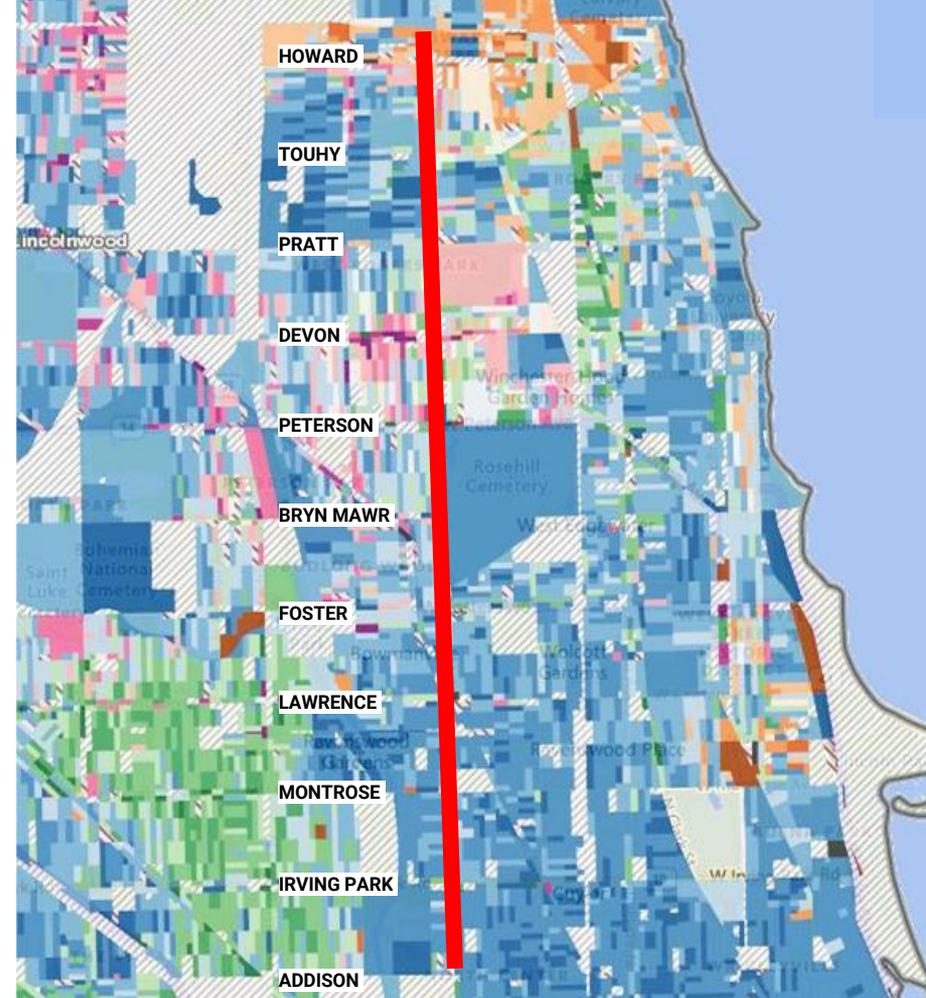
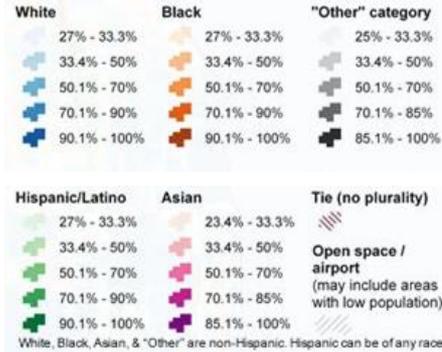
Western as Diverse Corridor

Increasing diversity to the north.

Cultural hubs at

- Devon/Western (Little India Heritage District)
- Lincoln/Lawrence (German Heritage District)

Language spoken include: **English, Spanish, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Arabic**



Race/Ethnicity by Census Block 2010

Corridor Character: Unique Architecture

From Top to Bottom (L-R): Desi Mart, Waveland Bowl, Northtown Library at Western and Pratt, Lane Tech High School, 4101 Western



Corridor Character: Auto-Oriented Development

From Top to Bottom (L-R): Western and Granville, Western and Berwyn, Western and Chase, Western and Glenlake



Corridor Character: Mixed-Use Development

From Top to Bottom (L-R): Western and Dakin, Western and Leland, Western and Leland



Corridor Character: Vacancies and Underutilized Sites

From Top to Bottom (L-R): Western and Glenlake, Western and Berenice, Western and Berenice, Western and Leland



Corridor Character: Residential Development

From Top to Bottom (L-R): Winnemac and Western, Berenice and Western, Ainslie and Western, Montrose and Western



Corridor Character: Open Space

From Top to Bottom (L-R): Welles Park, West Ridge Nature Preserve, Rosehill Cemetery, Horner Park



Corridor Character: Pedestrian Realm



Corridor Character: Pedestrian Realm

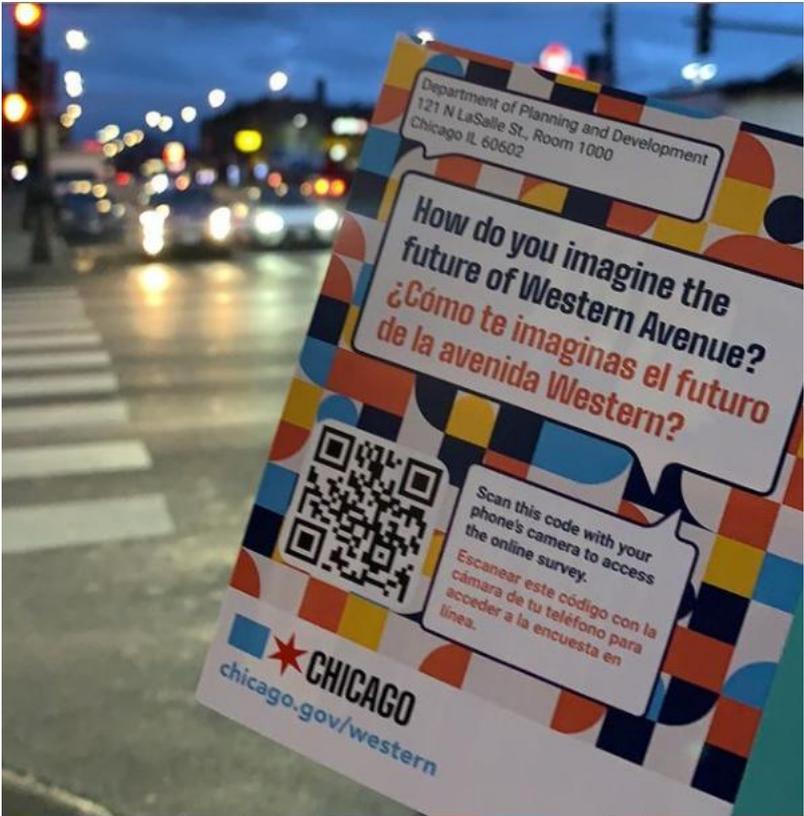




COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Getting the word out



Online tools for initial input

Website

- + Visit our website chicago.gov/western

Social Media

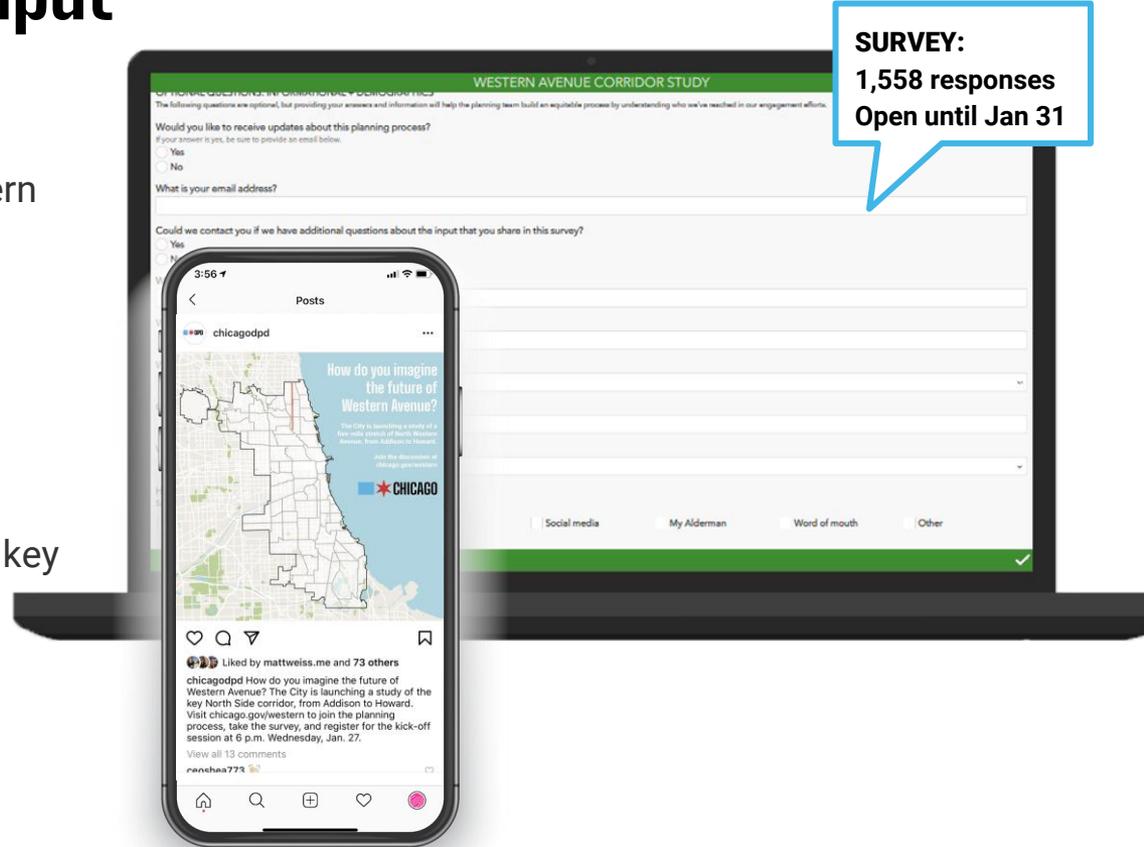
- + Reply / Comment on posts - we're documenting and reading them all!
- + Share with your followers

Online Survey

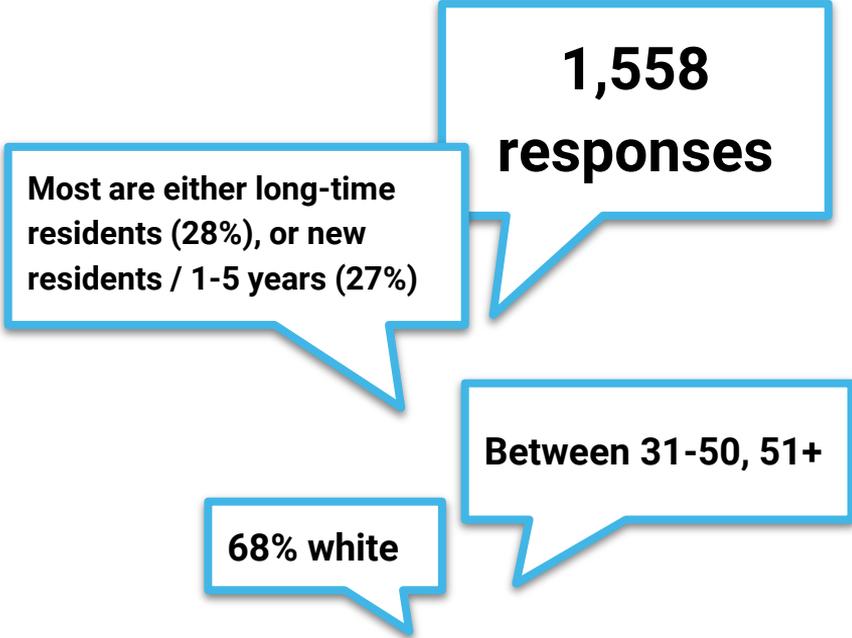
- + Take the introductory survey
- + Additional surveys to be released at key milestones

Public Events

- + Three (3) Zoom meetings at key milestones

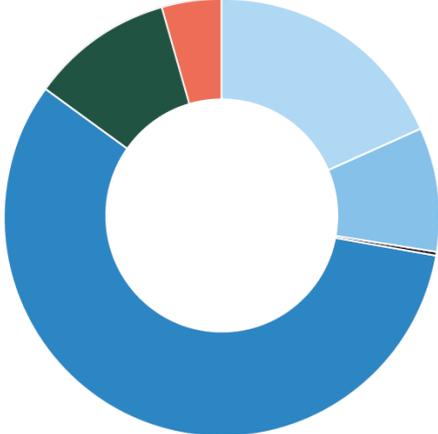


Who are we hearing from

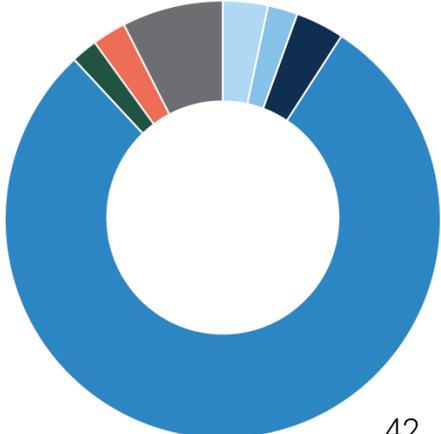


- Asian / Pacific Islander / South Asian
- African / African American / Black
- Latinx / Latina / Latino
- White
- Other Race
- Multi-Racial / Bi-Racial
- Prefer Not to Answer

Study Area Demographics



Respondent Demographics

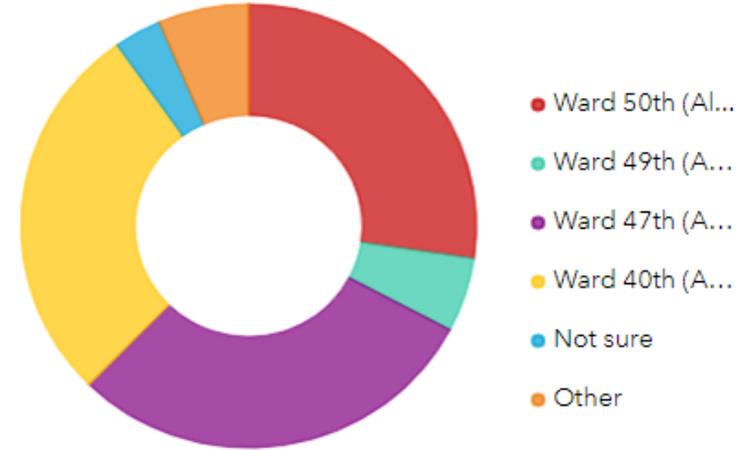


Who are we hearing from

Neighborhoods (in order of total respondents)

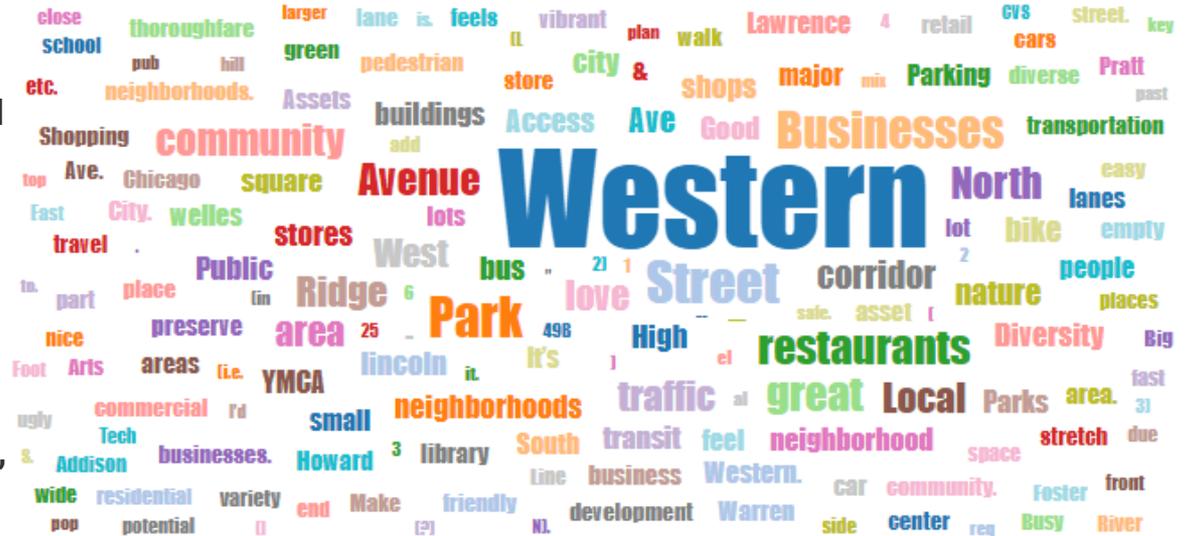
1. Lincoln Square
2. West Ridge
3. North Center
4. West Rogers Park

Respondent Ward Representation



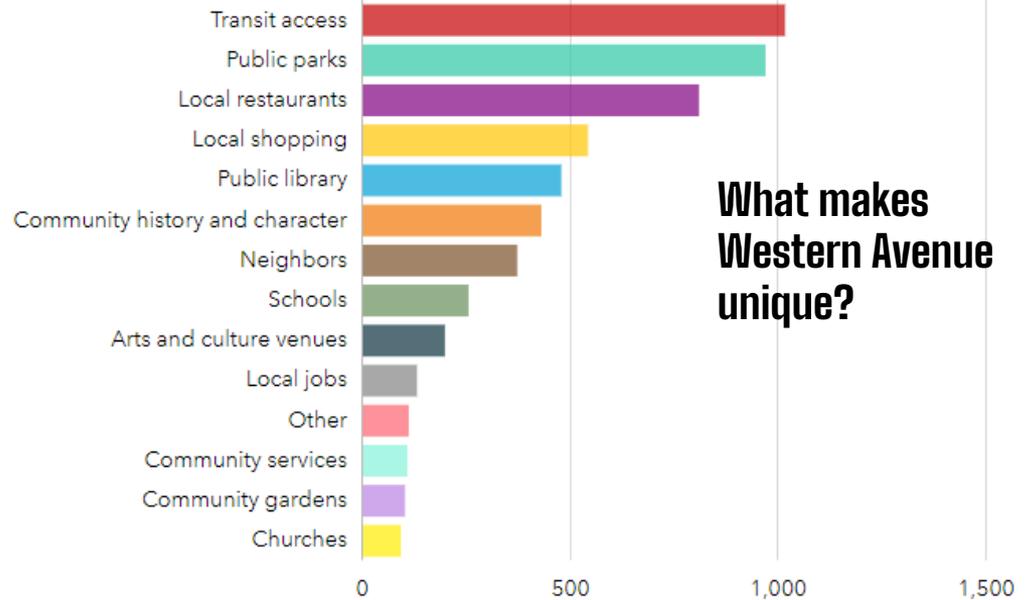
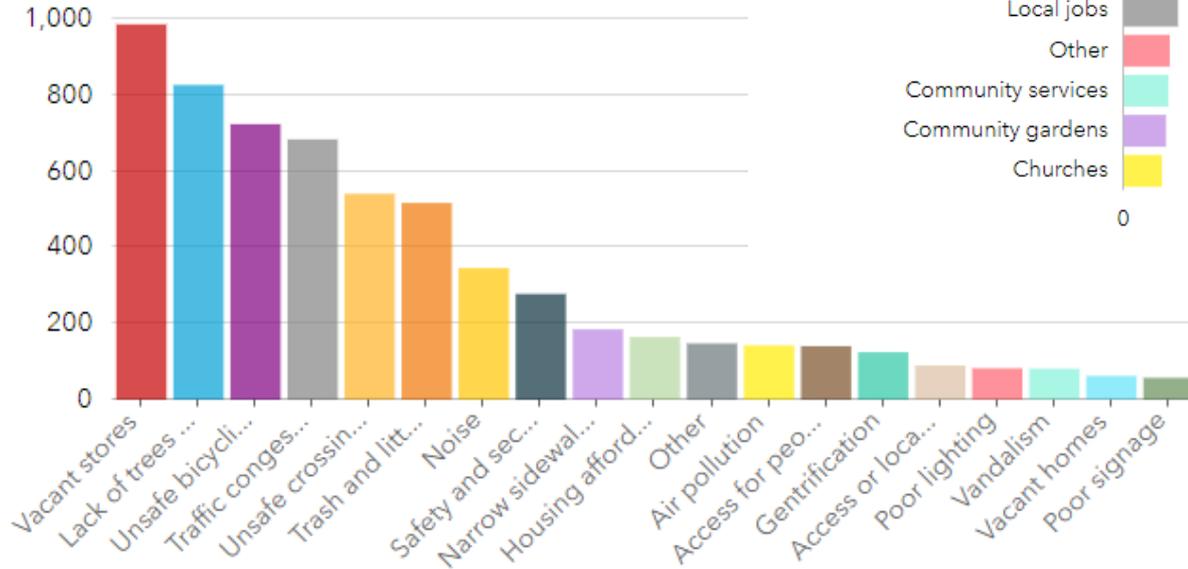
Early Survey Findings

- Comments focus on **parks, businesses, restaurants, and community.**
- Strengths include **diversity, local shopping, and transit.**
- Mostly **positive**, with a focus on **opportunities** for improvements.
- **Geographic distribution** of comments fairly **equal**. (north, central, south).
- Issues mentioned include **traffic, vacant lots and buildings, bike infrastructure.**



Early Survey Findings

What challenges does Western Avenue face?



What makes Western Avenue unique?

Listening to Local Businesses



Hollywood Services (Auto Shop)
48 years



Milaknis Animal Hospital
85 years



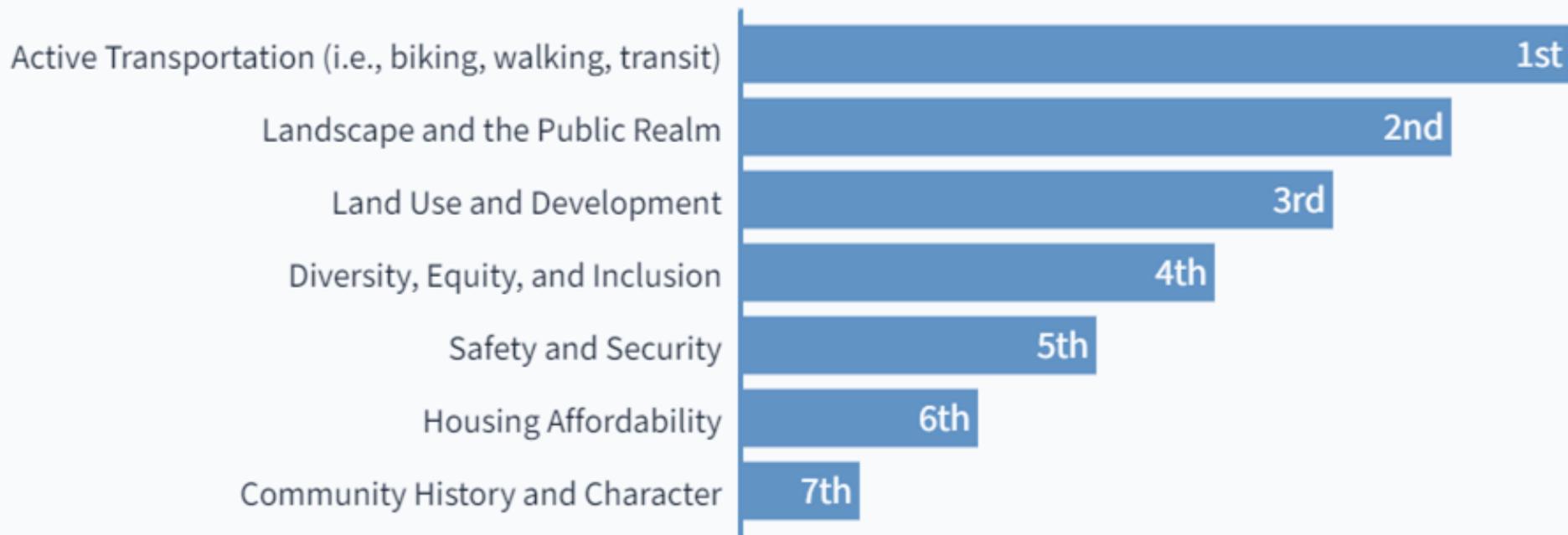
Rosehill Barber Shop
2 months



Q&A



What are your top priorities for Western Avenue? Rank in order of importance.





NEXT STEPS



Get Involved & Stay Connected

- Have you participated in the community survey?**
If not, please visit:
bit.ly/westernavenuecorridor



- Sign up for email updates:**
<https://bit.ly/3qP5crl>
- Visit our website:**
chicago.gov/western

- Stay connected!**
 -  @chicagodpd
 -  @chicago.dot
 -  @ChicagoDPD @ChicagoDOT
- Send additional questions to**
WesternAve@cityofchicago.org



Thank You!

