



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2012

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

BLOOMINGDALE TRAIL LAND ACQUISITION PLAN APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

CHICAGO –The City Council today approved a plan today for the City of Chicago to formally acquire the 2.7-mile railroad embankment for the construction of the Bloomingdale Trail and Park on the city's northwest Side.

“The conversion of the elevated Bloomingdale Line into a trail and park provides unprecedented connections among the vibrant Northwest Side neighborhoods the old railway runs through,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “This property acquisition is one of the first steps to begin the design and construction process.”

The future Bloomingdale Trail and Park runs along Bloomingdale Avenue, adjacent to numerous private properties, and crosses over major arterials, an historic boulevard, bus and bicycle routes, and the CTA Blue Line. The plan is to blend a safe and attractive trail, accessible to all, uninterrupted by motor vehicles, with 13 acres of new open space that creates a place to play, commute, and relax. Construction is to be substantially completed by the end of 2014.

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) will acquire the property from the Canadian Pacific Railroad for a nominal fee of \$1 plus \$105,000 in administrative fees associated with the vacation of the railroad right-of-way.

CDOT has received approximately \$46 million in federal funding for construction of the trail and park. The required 20 percent local match is being raised with private funds through assistance from the City's project partner, Trust for Public Land.

###