



**2020 BUDGET STATEMENT TO THE CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
THOMAS CARNEY, ACTING COMMISSIONER  
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

Good afternoon, Chairman Dowell and members of the City Council. Thank you for having CDOT here today to discuss our work to strengthen the City's neighborhoods and transportation infrastructure.

CDOT's mission is to keep the city's surface transportation networks and public way safe and in a state of good repair. We are responsible for more than 4,600 miles of streets, 300 bridges and viaducts, 275 miles of on-street bikeways, 300,000 streetlights and 3,000 signalized intersections citywide. Each year, with support from the City Council, CDOT invests millions of dollars in the City's infrastructure, which is critical to Chicago's economic strength and residents' quality of life.

However, transportation is not just the things we build and maintain--it is the lifeblood of Chicago—I am pleased to report we have made progress on a number of **High Profile Projects** this year. Among them are:

**Wells/Wentworth Connector** – The multi-phase project led by CDOT is creating a new gateway to Chinatown from the fast-growing South Loop area.

**Riverview Bridge** – Later this year, we will cut the ribbon on Chicago's longest riverfront pedestrian bridge, a more than 1,000-foot pedestrian and bike bridge, which will be part of the new 312 RiverRun along the North Branch of the Chicago River.

**Bronzeville Bridges** – CDOT has undertaken five projects to improve connections between Bronzeville and the lakefront. These include reconstruction or replacement of four existing bridges at 31st, 35th, Oakwood Blvd./39th and 43rd Streets, and construction of one completely new crossing at 41st Street.

**CREATE** – CDOT along with its partners in the Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program began construction on the first phase of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP). CREATE is a first-of-its-kind multimodal public-private partnership to improve the rail and roadway network in the Chicago region.

**Damen and Lake CTA Green Line Station** – On the West Side, advance work is underway for what will be a transformative new CTA station on the Green Line at Damen and Lake Street. It will fill a 1-1/2-mile gap between existing Green Line stations at California and Ashland.

I would also like to highlight some **Major CDOT Programs**:

**Chicago Smart Lighting Program** – To date, 180,000 fixtures have been replaced and we are on track to replace a total of 270,000 outdated High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lamps with modern, more long-lasting LED fixtures by 2021. This will reduce electricity consumption by more than 50 percent and is projected to save \$100 million in electricity costs in the first ten years.

**Vision Zero** – Making our public way safer for all who use Chicago’s roads, parks, bike paths and walkways is CDOT’s top priority. This year we completed a traffic safety plan with input from West Side communities. And we secured federal funding to begin work on a Vision Zero South Side plan in 2020. We also greatly appreciate the \$4.8 million in menu projects since the initiative was announced in 2017 committed by Aldermen to support Vision Zero.

**Accessible Pedestrian Signals** – Mayor Lightfoot announced in July that Chicago will be adding up to 100 new Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at locations across the city in the next two years as a result of a new policy developed through a partnership between CDOT and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD).

**ChiStreetWork** – a web-based tool introduced in 2019, works like DotMaps, but allows the public to search by Ward, neighborhood, intersection or street address, for past, current and up to one year of future construction projects and infrastructure upgrades, special events and paving permits in the public way.

**811 Chicago** – Chicago’s one-call center administered by CDOT was certified this summer by the US DOT. CDOT is conducting community outreach to remind individuals excavating in Chicago that they must “call before they dig.”

**Neighborhood Services** - As all of you know, these larger projects and programs get the headlines, but it is the day-to-day neighborhood services CDOT provides that are critical to quality of life in your wards and for your constituents. By the end of this year, CDOT will have:

- Completed the resurfacing of 115 miles of streets and alleys
- Issued and coordinated almost 150,000 public-way work permits. Since we started improved coordination of public way construction permits in 2012, CDOT has saved the City \$170.2 million in infrastructure investments
- Repaired or replaced more than 142 blocks of sidewalks
- Installed or replaced 51 blocks of new curbs and gutters
- Installed 7,380 ADA sidewalk ramps in coordination with other agencies and third parties city-wide, bringing the total to 112,000 ADA compliant ramps across the city since 2006.
- Installed 153 blocks of residential and arterial street lights in addition to the 180,000 new Smart Lighting Program fixtures
- Painted crosswalks and stop bars at more than 1,000 residential intersections, especially around parks and schools
- Installed, replaced or repaired nearly 46,000 traffic and street signs.
- Performed more than 20,000 bridge lifts on Chicago’s rivers.

**Neighborhood Streetscapes** - We are also working hard to make our communities more livable and vibrant through streetscape projects in cooperation with Aldermen in neighborhoods across the city. Among the notable Streetscape projects that are in progress or scheduled for next year include:

- **Motor Row Streetscape** – Michigan Ave, Cermak to 24<sup>th</sup> Place.
- **95<sup>th</sup> St. Streetscape** – 95<sup>th</sup> St., Damen to Wood work began this past summer.
- **71<sup>st</sup> St. Streetscape** – Jeffery to South Shore Drive.
- **Blue Island Avenue** – between 19th Street and 21st Street.
- **Fulton Market** – Section 2 of Fulton Market Streetscape.
- **Broadway/Lawrence Streetscape** – a new outdoor plaza at Racine and improved CTA Station access.
- **Northcenter Town Square** – a new town square at West Belle Plaine Avenue between North Lincoln Avenue and North Damen Avenue.
- **North Shore Channel Bridge** - a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge connects the current North Shore trail in Chicago at Lincoln Ave.

### **Creating Opportunities for Contracting and Jobs**

Recently, I updated Council members on our ongoing efforts to create more opportunities for M/W/DBE firms and to increase local hiring.

- CDOT created **Target Market DUR** (Depends Upon Requirements) contracts for Professional Design Engineering and Construction Engineering Services.
- Another success story is the **Chicago Smart Lighting Program**. The program continues to meet and exceed the subcontracting and workforce goals. The current MBE participation since the program's inception is 37.06% and the WBE participation is 5.6%.
- The **PMC (Project Manager Consultant)** contract was awarded to a 50/50 prime joint venture in 2017. Since the contract was awarded, the total M/WBE participation has been 66.5% (as of July 1, 2019).

We have accomplished much in 2019 in close cooperation with the City Council, and we look forward to building on this success and continuing to deliver the best possible services to the residents of Chicago next year. In partnership with aldermen and their communities, we will together ensure that Chicago's transportation network provides high-quality service to residents, businesses and our visitors. Thank you.