North Park Commercial Corridors Study

Community Open House February 4, 2019 5:30 – 7pm Northside College Prep





Project Overview

- Purpose of Study: Create a reference tool for community stakeholders that provides guidance on improving the commercial corridors.
- Corridors:
 - Bryn Mawr Ave.
 - Foster Ave.
 - Kedzie Ave.



How Will This Study Be Used?

- The North Park Study provides:
 - Data and facts about the neighborhood
 - A tool that identifies resources to support existing business owners
 - Market data that can help attract new businesses
 - Design guidelines to encourage quality development

LAND USE ANALYSIS

Study Area Land Uses





Study Area Land Uses (% by Area)



Corridor Land Uses



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

How Was the Community Engaged?

JNA

- 3 Pop-Up Events
 - Over 250 participants over 3 days
- Stakeholder Interviews
 - 7 stakeholder meetings
- Working Group
 - 17 members and 2 meetings
- Community Survey
 - 300 responses
- Online Comment Map
 - 154 visitors, 43 comments



How Was the Community Engaged?



Survey Highlights

 People are already staying in North Park for shopping, restaurants, and entertainment Where do you go to restaurants at least once per week? (Check all that apply.)



Survey Highlights

 Business owners and employees rank foot traffic, decreased sales, and condition of buildings as the most critical issues Rank the critical issues facing local businesses and organizations in North Park.



Key Theme: Filling Vacant Storefronts

- All ages expressed concern about vacant storefronts
- Desire for wider range of restaurants
- Not enough to do for high school students
- Employees go to Lincoln Square or Andersonville for restaurants and entertainment after work
- With more local options, more people would likely stay in North Park for shopping and dining



Key Theme: Keep it Local + Unique

- Important to attract independent businesses that reflect diversity of North Park
- Survey respondents prefer local stores, restaurants, and services
- Public spaces should enhance the sense of character and the diversity of the North Park Community

SINESSES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE LOCATED I CINS I F GUSTARIA VER UBICADOS E 어떤 비지니스종류나 서비스 프로그램이 आप कोन सो से वाए या वयवसाय देख Small Hardware Store - 7 Yess More dinner restaurants BOOK STORE - Yes2 LITTER CAMPAIGN! LE FENT CHUCKES COMMUNITY SPACES/ ETHNE GROCERY STORES-YES. Breakfast / Brunch Restour ands that store -Bartine / Local A the hashtag #ActivateNorthPark

Key Theme: Three Distinct Corridors

- Foster Avenue: More "people places"; want to see redevelopment of NW corner of Kedzie + Foster
- **Bryn Mawr Avenue**: Fill vacancies; foster a "creative corridor" (co-working spaces, workshops, art studios, storefront theaters); redevelop or reactivate vacant buildings on 3400 block
- **Kedzie Avenue**: Improve pedestrian + bike environment for students and CTA employees; add destinations



MARKET STUDY SUMMARY

Study Area Context Map

- Study Area = Bryn Mawr and Foster between Bernard and the River; Kedzie between Bryn Mawr and Foster
- North Park Community Area = 2-square mile area that is one of 77 designated Community Areas in the City



MARKET STUDY Demographics + Diversity



Median Residential Sale Prices



Source: Esri Business Analvst

MARKET STUDY Demographics + Diversity

NORTH PARK COMMUNITY AREA

Demographics	2000	2018
Population	18,514	17,843
Total Households	6,515	6,584
Total Housing Units	6,775	7,183
		Source: Esri Business Analyst



Median Household Income (2010 vs. 2018)





Source: Esri Business Analvst

MARKET STUDY Demographics + Diversity

Findings + Recommendations

- Almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of occupied housing units are owner occupied
- Wide range of household incomes
- Population declined slightly, but number of households is stable → this means smaller household sizes
- Rebounding home sales prices
- Efforts to support existing variety of businesses should focus on connecting owners to resources such as SBIF, Small Business Center, and Class 7a/7b incentives
- New businesses should build upon cultural diversity of North Park

MARKET STUDY Engage Institutions + Employers



North Park University

Northside College Prep

Northeastern Illinois University

MARKET STUDY Engage Institutions + Employers

Findings + Recommendations

- Build on existing relationships with area institutions to identify opportunities to fill vacant and underutilized property in the commercial corridors
- Form strategic relationships between institutions and small businesses (i.e. expand local purchasing programs, expand marketing to employees and students)
- In appropriate areas along Foster and Bryn Mawr, consider mixed-use development with ground floor commercial space and residential above that might be attractive to area employees

MARKET STUDY Support Local Businesses



Active Ground Floor Uses

Of 27 dining establishments, 23 are local, representing foods from all over the globe

> 119 Active Uses

Source: Goodman Williams

MARKET STUDY Support Local Businesses



Local vs. National Businesses

LOCAL

Top Commercial Uses





Personal Services: 9 Full Service Restaurant: 9 Institutional: 8 Auto-Oriented: 9 Construction & Mfg: 8 Institutional: 6

97%

KEDZIE

72%

28%

3%





Institutional: 13 Limited Service & Cafe: 10 Retail: 6

Source: Goodman Williams

MARKET STUDY Support Local Businesses

Findings + Recommendations

- High daytime population driven by anchor institutions; dining establishments are important component of commercial mix
 - 10 limited service restaurants, 11 full service
 - Only 3 are national chains (Starbucks, Jimmy Johns, and McDonalds)
- Consider development of a business organization that can help organize landlords and business owners to market North Park specifically

TRAFFIC COUNTS



GAP ANALYSIS

North Park Community Area Retail Gap

Examples of Gaps, based on Community Area households:

1) General Merchandise = \$32 million

2) Food & Beverage = \$7 million

3) Miscellaneous Services = \$3 million

CORRIDOR CHARACTERSTICS

BRYN MAWR

- Locally-owned businesses
- Lower rents and smaller storefronts
- Character buildings, mostly B zoning
- Creative arts related uses

KEDZIE

- Mix of uses (auto-oriented, manufacturing, and institutional)
- Larger building footprints and commercial zoning on east side of street
- CTA Bus Barn requires compatible uses

FOSTER

- Highest traffic counts
- More national businesses
- Lower vacancies
- NPU campus along south side of street,
- Mostly B zoning with mix of commercial and residential east of Kedzie

Findings + Recommendations

- **Bryn Mawr**: Smaller specialty retail or personal services establishments, work with NEIU and other landlords to seek new tenant opportunities (entertainment, cultural, maker/entrepreneurial)
- **Foster**: Encourage more retail, restaurants, and services to serve students, faculty and residents; work with NPU to encourage redevelopment of NWC of Foster/Kedzie
- **Kedzie**: Encourage service businesses (such as fitness, salons and health care) and/or institutional uses along Kedzie given proximity to existing critical services (such as the CTA Facility)

Liquor Restrictions

1

Liquor Moratorium on Packaged Goods and Taverns: Districts are put in place by wards and can be lifted with legislation.



Vote Dry Precinct: No alcohol can be sold within these areas. This can only be lifted by referendum during an election cycle.

- Prohibition within 100 ft of a church or school (state legislation passed providing exemption power to local liquor commissioners.)
- Findings + Recommendations
 - The Market Study recommends considering relaxing dry district restrictions to increase revenue for existing restaurants and the attractiveness of the area for potential restaurant tenants



DESIGN GUIDELINES

Design guidelines are not requirements, but they can be used by DPD, the Aldermen, and community organizations to guide development and enhance the character of each corridor.

COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER



Use signage and awnings that respect and highlight the building's original features





Respect the rhythm of solids and voids and retain facade details when possible

Maintain original size and shape of building entrances and windows

GROUND FLOOR + SIGNAGE



Building base and the scale of signs and awnings should provide interest to pedestrians and fit the context of the block



Ground floor windows should have a minimum transparency of 60%



Signage should be clearly visible to pedestrians and provide visual interest (i.e. blade signs)

COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS Building Setbacks + Public Spaces



Buildings should be located at a consistent build-to line close to the front lot line; consider additional space for landscaping or outdoor amenities, if compliant with zoning



Identify opportunities to include public spaces and plazas as part of redevelopment projects



Set back taller stories of buildings to allow for sunlight and a comfortable experience for pedestrians and neighboring properties

NEW CONSTRUCTION



Building facades should blend contemporary design with use of contextual features, materials and colors



Create a distinction between the base, middle, and tops of buildings



Proportions of design features should be consistent with surrounding buildings

COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS Building orientation





Facades and building entrances should face the primary street

Buildings facades and entrances should be clearly defined and articulated



Corner buildings should have entrances located on the primary corridor or corner with facades that wrap around the side street

<u> Parking + Curb Cuts</u>



Parking should be located to the rear or along the side of buildings rather than in front



Screen side parking lots using attractive landscaping and fencing, per landscape code requirements



Limit and consolidate curb cuts and driveways from primary streets

CORRIDOR CHARACTERISTICS BRYN MAWR AVENUE

Existing Street Environment

- · Distinctive variety of architecture
- · Character and orange-rated buildings
- Pedestrian-scaled
- Low-traffic volume
- Some blank walls
- Some active ground floor storefonts, but high vacancies
- · Some segments of wide sidewalks

Applying the Guidelines

- Respect integrity and unique nature of existing architecture
- Parking should be located to the rear of buildings
- Limit curb cuts
- Seek opportunities for outdoor seating and other street activation



Retain and rehab unique character buildings



Contemporary and compatible new construction

CORRIDOR CHARACTERISTICS FOSTER AVENUE

Existing Street Environment

- West of Kedzie:
 - South side of street is NPU campus and buildings
 - North side of street has more active ground floor treatment
 - One- to four- story buildings
- East of Kedzie:
 - More auto-oriented
 - Several curb cuts
 - · Few active ground floor uses

Applying the Guidelines

- New uses/redevelopment should be consistent with existing surrounding street character and uses
- Seek opportunities for outdoor seating and other street activation



Foster, east of Kedzie



Foster, west of Kedzie

CORRIDOR CHARACTERISTICS

KEDZIE AVENUE

Existing Street Environment

- East side of street has Northside Prep campus, CTA North Park Garage + auto-focused uses
- West side of street has a variety of uses including institutional (religious and educational), critical service facilities, commercial + limited residential
- Curb cuts + parking lots
- Non-transparent windows
- Blank walls
- Narrow sidewalks

Applying the Guidelines

- Encourage service businesses (such as fitness, salons and health care) and/or institutional uses
- Concentrate new active uses near intersections



Kedzie, east side of street



Kedzie, west side of street

Next Steps

- Public Comments due by February 19th
 - Fill out and submit your **Comment Card** tonight OR
 - View draft materials on the project website and email comments to <u>DPD@cityofchicago.org</u>
- Final Report Available in Spring 2019

www.tinyURL.com/NorthParkStudy