

SOUTH SHORE CORRIDOR STUDY



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS SUMMARY

APRIL 15, 2019



Regional
Transportation
Authority



Greg
MITCHELL
7th Ward Alderman

DPD

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



SOUTH SHORE
chamber of commerce

On April 15, 2019, project team staff met with several local stakeholders and residents who are deeply engaged in the South Shore community to better understand their ideas and hopes for the neighborhood. A summary of this feedback is provided below, organized into common areas of focus.

TRANSIT

- Current bus service in the area is adequate but infrastructure improvements are needed.
- The train stations, bus shelters and access to the stations and stops need improvements.
- Train stations need improved lighting and safety considerations.
- Need affordable paratransit and ways to get around within the neighborhood.
- Water transport to connect the community to points north should be considered.

HOUSING

- Areas north of 75th Street are more expensive and perceived as nicer parts of the community
- It is important to preserve affordability in the neighborhood.
- A balanced mix of owner-occupied and renter housing, as well as market-rate and affordable housing, would be welcomed by the community.
- There is a need for multi-unit buildings with amenities to attract younger people.

OPEN SPACE

- There is lack of adequate open space in the community.
- Create recreational spaces within the community.
- Enhance amenities at Rainbow Beach and create more opportunities for recreation.



STREETS & STREETScape

- Streets need improvements such as resurfacing, wider sidewalks to promote walkability, green spaces and an overall improved street environment.
- Build ADA accessible curbs, introduce stop lights at intersections and other pedestrian best practices to make the streets safe for seniors and all pedestrians.
- Focus development at key nodes.
- Opinions on whether 75th or 79th Street would serve as more appropriate retail corridor was split. Some prefer 75th since it seems to be perceived as safer than 79th but overall bus ridership is highest on 79th which means more traffic to support retail.

AMENITIES

- There is a need for more neighborhood-serving retail, such as cleaners, ice cream parlor, flower shops and print shops in the neighborhood.
- Community members also would like to see more sit-down restaurants and coffee shops, as well as apparel stores, specialty stores and places for entertainment.
- Promote more black owned businesses in the community.

SAFETY

- There is a perception that parts of the community are unsafe.
- Jeffrey Blvd between 75th and 79th Street is suspected to have illegal activities.

OTHER IDEAS

- There is a need for a brand identity for the community and the corridors. This was a common request from all participants.
- Recognize the important role of churches in the community as areas for congregation.
- Currently, the neighborhood schools are not a strong draw for families.

- Vacancy relief tax credit may be encouraging commercial property owners to leave their units vacant.

GOOD EXAMPLES

- Parts of 83rd Street and 87th Street are examples of good retail corridors.
- Make South Shore Cultural Center the “Ravinia” of South side.
- Seville and Colombia public transportation.
- 119th/Ashland – Kroch Center – an intergenerational facility.
- Park at 69th and Oglesby is a good example of open space.

STAY INFORMED

A public meeting for the South Shore Corridor Study will be held on May 15, 2019 at South Shore International College Prep High School. Details for this meeting and additional information on this initiative are available on the project webpage [here](#).

Please email DPD with any questions, or if you would like to be added to our contact database:

DPD@cityofchicago.org