

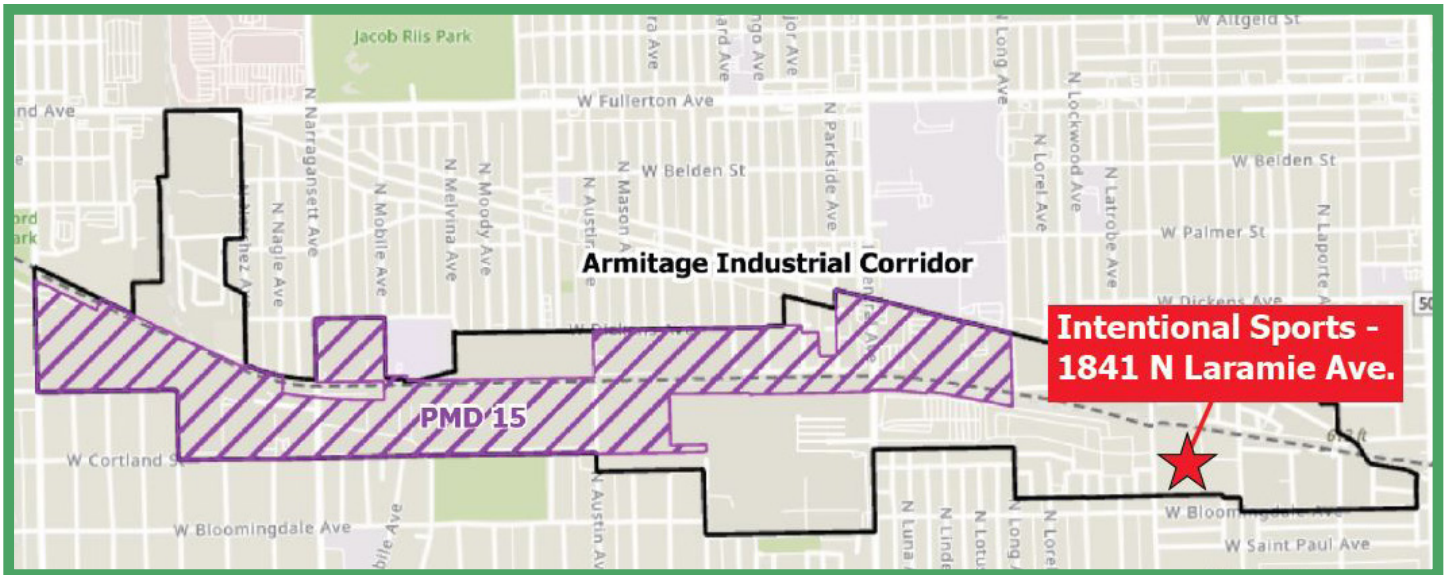
ARMITAGE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR FRAMEWORK PLAN

Session 1 : Listening + Learning

July 18, 2024, Intentional Sports, 5:30-7:30pm



Community Engagement Summary



BACKGROUND

The Armitage Industrial Corridor (AIC) is located on the northwest side of the city, generally bounded by Grand Avenue on the north, Oak Park Avenue on the west, Cortland Street and Bloomingdale Avenue on the south, Cicero Avenue on the east and includes Planned Manufacturing District (PMD) 15.

As part of the ongoing Industrial Corridor Modernization Initiative, the Department of Planning and Development initiated a planning process in the spring of 2024 to evaluate the effectiveness of the AIC. This planning initiative will feature numerous opportunities for all interested parties to engage collaboratively along with the City to develop a framework plan that guides future growth in the AIC.

The AIC Framework Plan will build upon the City's previous industrial corridor planning efforts and reinforce the goals of strengthening Chicago's industrial corridors as economic engines and vital job centers, improving access for all transportation modes, and enhancing the area's unique natural and built assets. The framework plan will also be guided by relevant goals of the 2023 Citywide Plan regarding equity and environmental justice. The AIC Framework Plan will offer recommendations that focus on using existing resources, incentives, and programs to support the changing needs of existing and new businesses in the corridor.

FRAMEWORK PLAN GOALS



Goal 1 Strengthen Chicago's Industrial Corridors as Economic Engines and Vital Job Centers



Goal 2 Improve Access for all Transportation Modes



Goal 3 Enhance Unique Natural and Built Assets

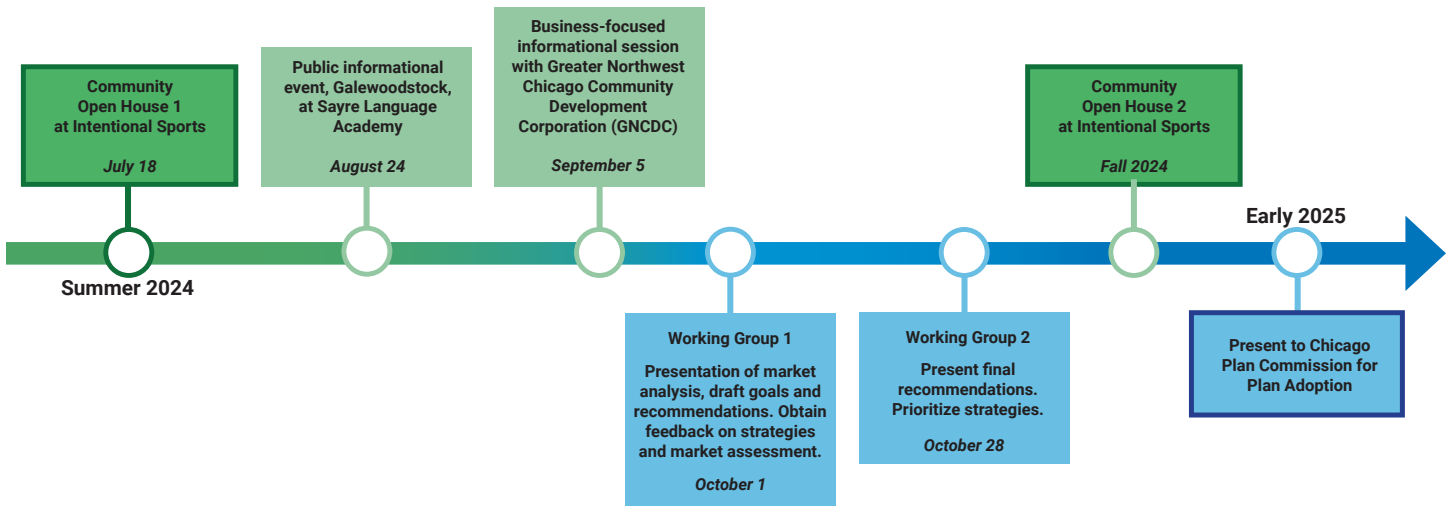


Goal 4 Address Environmental Issues



Goal 5 Balance Economic Benefits and Negative Impacts on Communities

SCHEDULE



OUTREACH STRATEGY

The project team employed a comprehensive community outreach strategy to ensure that information about the Armitage Industrial Corridor planning process was effectively communicated and accessible to interested community members and businesses. The following steps were taken to maximize engagement:

- A detailed flyer was posted on DPD’s official website to ensure broad online visibility.
- Flyers were distributed to local aldermen for further dissemination within the 29, 36, and 37 wards.
- The flyer was sent to over 300 community residents who participated in the Mars engagement process.
- The Greater Northwest Chicago Community Development Corporation promoted the meeting to its members.



COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

This event took place within the Armitage Industrial Corridor at Intentional Sports (1841 N Laramie Ave) on July 18th, 2024 from 5:30PM-7:30PM. The open house participants engaged in activities and shared their ideas at different stations and boards. Overall, **22 community members** attended, with more than half living or working near the Armitage Industrial Corridor.

Stations covered topics to inform the reader of the planning process and the area context. Each participant was provided Post-It notes to document their feedback, allowing them to share their experiences, contribute ideas, and highlight the themes most important to them. All materials were provided in English and Spanish. A team member provided bilingual support at each activity station.

What we heard

Participants were asked several questions relating to the five goals of the project. The main takeaways are summarized as follows:

Strengthen Chicago's Industrial Corridors as Economic Engines and Vital Job Centers

Questions:

- What are the AIC's main strengths for attracting and retaining businesses?
- What types of industrial uses should be prioritized in the AIC?
- What types of businesses, land uses or operations are missing?
- Is it important to keep and attract industrial and manufacturing jobs near the Montclare, Belmont Cragin, and Austin communities?

Key Takeaways:

- Proximity to residential areas makes the AIC strong to attract and retain businesses.
- There's a wide range of businesses and land uses that are missing such as retail and community centers.
- It's important to keep and attract industrial and manufacturing jobs in the AIC.



Improve Access for all Transportation Modes

Questions:

- What potential transportation and infrastructure improvements would have the biggest impact for the AIC? Where?
- Are train and bus options near the corridor easily accessible?
- How do you typically travel in and around the corridor (walking, biking, transit, driving)?
- What portions of the corridor create pedestrian, bicyclist and driver safety concerns?

Key Takeaways:

- Public transit accessibility has room for improvement.
- There are pedestrian safety concerns in certain areas of the study area such as Narragansett Ave & Cortland St, the Metra underpass along Laramie Ave, and the area around the Galewood Metra Station.

Enhance Unique Natural and Built Assets

Questions:

- What buildings contribute to the character and identity of the AIC?
- What landscapes contribute to the character and identity of the AIC?

Key Takeaways:

- The Mars Company building is among the most notable buildings in the neighborhood.
- Sayre Park offers leisure and recreational activities and contributes to the landscape character of the community.
- Residents would like to see other building types, such as those intended for senior housing.

