



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW



Thank you for your involvement in the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project!

The goals of this project are to improve safety for all users of this corridor, repurpose and activate public spaces, and transform this corridor into one that reflects the unique identity of North Lawndale. Hearing from all community stakeholders throughout the project is essential for the design to incorporate the community's vision and priorities.

This handout provides an overview of engagement activities to date, what we have heard from community members, and a preview of the many future engagement opportunities throughout the project!

All comments are welcome at info@ImproveOgdenAve.org.

How can I stay up to date?



- ✓ Visit ImproveOgdenAve.org
- ✓ Sign up for project updates!

Scan Me!



Project Schedule

Community members have the opportunity to be involved during every stage of the project. This project schedule details major engagement activities throughout each project stage. These activities include Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings, Public Meetings, Public Surveys, and Community Workshops. In addition to these activities, there will be e-newsletters, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, and youth engagement initiatives.





Public Meetings

Public Meeting #1 was held at Stone Temple Church in April 2023. The meeting included a presentation, exhibit boards, and multiple activities to gather feedback.

The meeting was promoted through multiple channels, in English and Spanish. These included flyer distribution at businesses and organizations along the corridor, team member attendance at community events, ads placed in Lawndale News, project e-newsletters distribution, and meeting announcement materials for use by the Community Advisory Group.

Two more public meetings are anticipated.



Photo: Community members share their vision for Ogden Avenue at Public Meeting #1

Image: Community members shared their experiences on Ogden Avenue and their vision for the corridor's future through Public Survey #1

North Lawndale: Ogden Ave Corridor Improvements | Public Meeting

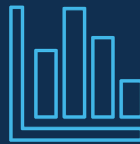
Thank you for taking the time to share your local expertise on Ogden Avenue. This survey asks about your connection to Ogden Avenue, your experience in the corridor today, and your vision for the future of Ogden Avenue. It is 24 questions and will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Your responses will help shape the corridor design.

1. Are you familiar with the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements project? Check all that apply.

- I am not familiar with the project
- I have attended an INVEST South / West Roundtable (ISW) where the project was presented
- I attended the project's first public meeting on April 12th
- I am a Community Advisory Group member
- Other (please specify) _____

2. What is your relationship to Ogden Avenue? Check all that apply.

- I live on or nearby
- I work on or nearby
- I commute or pass through the corridor on my way somewhere else
- I am a student at a school in or nearby the corridor
- I own a business along the corridor
- I own a property along the corridor
- I am a visitor (If you are a visitor, please include your reason for visiting in Other below)
- Other (please specify) Lifelong NL Resident



Public Survey

Public Survey #1 was released at Public Meeting #1 and remained open for one month through May 2023. Community members shared their experience on Ogden Avenue and their vision for the future of the corridor. The survey was available online and printed for participants to fill out during the public meeting.

The online survey link was shared with the CAG for distribution to community members. It was also made available via flyers distributed at locations throughout the corridor, including but not limited to: Farm on Ogden, Carole Roberston Center, Legacy Charter School, Lawndale Christian Health Center, and businesses along Ogden Avenue. Paper copies of surveys were also made available at Stone Temple Church.

One more public survey is anticipated.

WHAT WE HEARD: PUBLIC MEETING #1 & PUBLIC SURVEY #1

1

According to respondents, Ogden Avenue is a unique street, a neighborhood space, and a connection to the rest of the city.

When asked about Ogden Avenue's best features, respondents highlighted its views of downtown Chicago, the quick connection to the rest of the city, its existing community resources, and the large potential of its right-of-way.

*"The view towards downtown Chicago."
translated from Spanish*



"It's [Ogden's] connection to many neighborhoods."

"You can quickly get to certain areas because it runs diagonally."

"Community resources like Douglass Park, the walking areas on Millard and Ogden, the Farm on Ogden, dining outdoors..."



"It is an angle street running counter to the other main angle streets. It could be a profoundly useful transit corridor."

"In certain pockets of Ogden Avenue you can still feel the sense of community."

"Something that drives economic development. Something that centers and supports community ownership of businesses."



"I would like Ogden Avenue to feel like a celebration of the community it is a part of."

2

Respondents want more reasons to visit Ogden, with a mix of public spaces and businesses that reflect the local community.

When asked about what would make Ogden Avenue a great place for them and their community, respondents highlighted spaces for recreation, additional local businesses, and community spaces.

"For [Ogden] to be active and vibrant, while conserving the community's culture. Ogden Ave has for many years represented a division between North and South Lawndale, it would be good if [Ogden] were to unite us."

translated from Spanish



"Create a safe space for people to enjoy being in their community."

WHAT WE HEARD: PUBLIC MEETING #1 & PUBLIC SURVEY #1



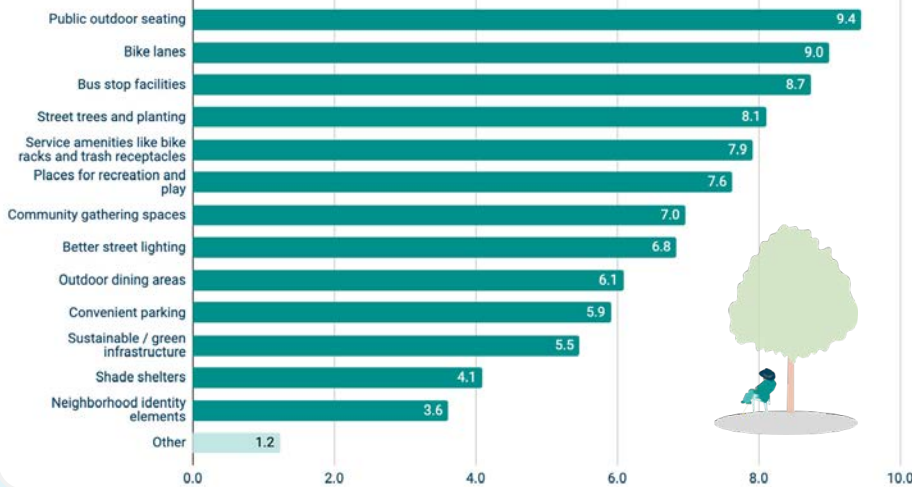
"Residents and visitors deserve to live, work, and relax in a beautiful and well maintained community."



3

Respondents expressed a desire for baseline amenities to be provided along Ogden Avenue.

When asked to rank what they'd like to see along Ogden Avenue, respondents prioritized public seating, bike lanes, improved bus stops, street greenery, and basic service amenities like bike racks and trash receptacles.

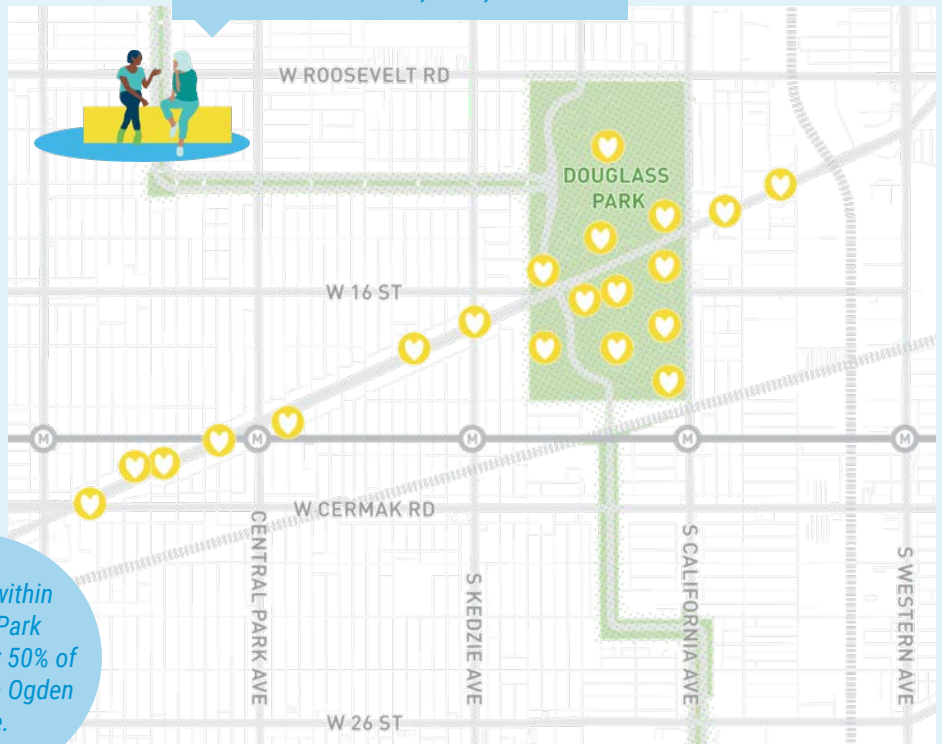


4

Respondents identified key community assets that exist along the project corridor today.

When asked to identify community assets and destinations on a map, respondents highlighted Douglass Park, the Firehouse, churches, health clinics, and restaurants.

"[It's] surrounded by the natural environment with birds, trees, and water!"



Locations within Douglass Park accounted for 50% of the assets on Ogden Avenue.



Community Workshops

The project team held three community workshops to gain more feedback on specific topics. These are more focused on a specific topic than a traditional public meeting. Workshop topics included: Corridor Identity, Placemaking, and Street Design. All input from the workshops will inform and advance the urban design concepts and future street design of the Ogden Avenue Corridor. Alternative potential design concepts will be shared at the second public meeting.

Community Workshop #1 | Corridor Identity

This workshop focused on receiving community input regarding potential corridor identity themes we heard through Public Meeting #1 and Public Survey #1. It was held in August 2023 at the Lawndale Christian Health Center Skyline Conference Center. Attendees had an opportunity to discuss corridor identity themes and generate ideas for corridor identifier designs in small groups with project team members.

Community Workshop #2 | Placemaking

This workshop focused on receiving community input regarding potential placemaking opportunities throughout the corridor. It was held in October 2023 at the Lawndale Christian Health Center Skyline Conference Center. Attendees participated in activities to identify placemaking design elements that align with the community's vision, priorities and assets. Potential locations of placemaking elements were also discussed.

Community Workshop #3 | Street Design

This workshop focused on receiving community input regarding potential street design strategies. Held in January 2024 at Legacy Charter School, attendees had the opportunity to provide feedback on possible roadway configurations and discuss tradeoffs with the placemaking opportunities identified in the first Public Meeting and the Placemaking Workshop. This workshop included input activities to develop roadway configurations that align with the community's vision, priorities and assets.



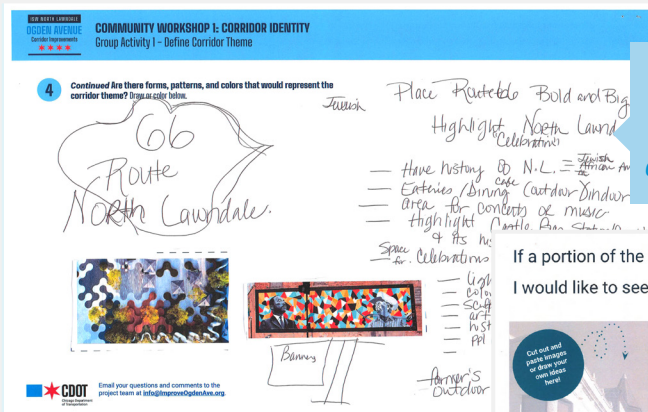
Photos: Community members share their ideas for potential placemaking opportunities on a corridor map at Community Workshop #2.



WHAT WE HEARD: COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS #1 & #2

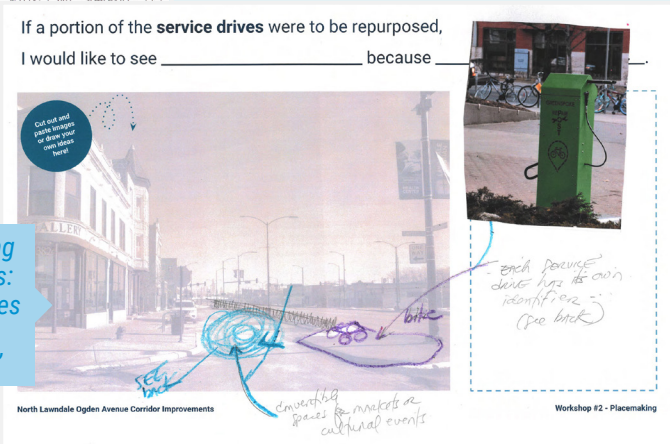


- Ogden Avenue is an important asset for the community. There is interest in creating community spaces and more opportunities for economic development.
- Participants requested basic service amenities. Shaded benches, trash receptacles, level sidewalks, and functioning streetlights were frequently mentioned. The need for baseline active mobility infrastructure, such as accessible sidewalks, sheltered bus stops, and bike lanes was also highlighted.
- When asked about waiting to cross Ogden Avenue, respondents underlined the need for a safe and accessible pedestrian crossing experience. Elements such as refuge islands, longer walk times, improved signalization, and enhanced bus stops were repeatedly mentioned.
- When asked about sidewalks at underpasses, respondents suggested the experience could be improved with enhanced lighting and art installations that reflect local culture and history developed by local artists. Workshop participants suggested the underpass walls, columns, and entry arch as possible canvases.
- Participants expressed a desire to highlight the multi-cultural history of North Lawndale and Route 66's significance to the neighborhood and nationally.
- Participants generally preferred numerous interactive community identifiers or markers along the corridor, rather than one large identifier. It was noted that identifiers should be fun, colorful, and engaging.



"[I would like to see] Eateries/dining, area for concerts, space for celebrations outdoors."

"I would like to see better crosswalks because it needs to be safer."



"Residents and visitors deserve to live, work, and relax in a beautiful and well maintained community."

About repurposing the service drives: "convertible spaces for markets or cultural events."



Website and Newsletter Updates

The project website [ImproveOgdenAve.org](https://www.improveogdenave.org) is regularly updated with project news and meeting materials. Project e-newsletters are released at key points in the project to update the community about upcoming engagement opportunities and share any recent project milestones.



Community Pop-up Meetings

Project information is also shared at community events such as Sundays on the Boulevard, Mondays-Sustenance for the Soul, YMEN My Brothers Kitchen on Saturdays, the Lawndale 5K, Sukkah Design Festival, local block parties, and more!

Are there community events you would like us to attend? Let us know by emailing us at info@ImproveOgdenAve.org!



Community Advisory Group Meetings

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) is formed of corridor stakeholders and community organizations who provide valuable input and are conduits to the community at large. The CAG are important partners helping to promote engagement opportunities.

The CAG met in January 2023, during which CAG members learned about the project and provided initial feedback. Two more CAG meetings are anticipated.

Are you interested in your organization joining the CAG? Email the project team at info@ImproveOgdenAve.org.



Project Information Sessions

Would you like the project team to provide a project update to your local committee or organization? Email info@improveogdenave.org if you would like us to join your meeting. We want to reach as many community members as possible to ensure this design reflects the community's priorities.



How do I get involved?

- ✓ Participate in meetings. Receive updates on upcoming meetings by signing up for our e-newsletter here: www.improveogdenave.org/contact-us
- ✓ Host an information session. Email the project team at info@ImproveOgdenAve.org to have us join your meeting!
- ✓ Share meeting materials. All meeting materials are posted here: www.improveogdenave.org/updates-and-materials
- ✓ Submit comments on our comment form here: www.improveogdenave.org/contact-us



Photo: Project information being provided at Sustenance for the Soul at Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church.