



Infrastructure Task Force Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 11th 2016 @ 10 AM
WaterSaver Faucet and Guardian Equipment on Goose Island
1140 N North Branch St, Chicago, IL 60642

Updates on Requests & Projects

1. **Damen-Elston- Fullerton intersection Improvement Project (CDOT)**
 - a. *New Elston has been open since 8/18/16, will be complete by 10/2017 next year. Currently there are sporadic lane closures, always with one lane open. Upon completion two lanes will be open. Two lanes will be open in each direction by Thanksgiving 2016.*
 - b. *Old Elston will be called Elston Court, Elston Court will stretch from south of Fullerton to the cut off of at new Elston*
2. **Western Ave. Improvement Project (CDOT)**
 - a. *Will be completed by Memorial Day 2017 and will run from Logan on the south to Waveland on the North. Western Ave fly-over was removed.*
 - b. *All property acquisition has been completed (Note: Property acquisition needed for turning radius improvements.)*
3. **Division St Bridges & Overall Division St. Improvement Project (CDOT) - Status of both Division St bridge reconstruction projects & Left turn signal for east bound Division St. turning left onto N. bound Elston**

Updates:

 - Currently in Phase I design: Construction is scheduled to start in May 2019.
 - The Left turn signal for east bound Division St. turning left onto N. bound Elston is part of this project
 - a. *No consultant or design set yet because in early phase. Questions can be directed to Lauren at lauren@northbranchworks.org to send to CDOT to get to the appropriate Project Manager.*
4. **Chicago Ave bridge replacement (CDOT) - schedule for the Chicago Ave Bridge reconstruction.**

Updates:

 - Construction is scheduled to start in May 2019 (Chicago Ave. bridge and the Chicago-Halsted viaduct)
 - a. *Questions can be directed to Lauren at lauren@northbranchworks.org to send to CDOT to get to the appropriate Project Manager.*
5. **Traffic signal installation at intersection of Kingsbury/Weed/Sheffield streets (CDOT)**
 - a. *Installed, currently in use but in the testing phases. Will be fully installed and functional by late fall 2016. Funded by North Branch South TIF.*
6. **4-way stop sign request on Kingsbury & Evergreen (CDOT) – Currently has two stop signs on Evergreen and two pedestrian cross walks on Kingsbury**
 - a. *Discussion that there should be a 4-way stop sign at this location due to current TrueBlue high density and incoming businesses in that area according to R². Lauren will follow up with Reggie to request 4-way stop sign.*

The North River Corridor Infrastructure Task Force was created to facilitate improved communication and decision-making on public infrastructure & transit investments in the North River / Addison Industrial Corridors (including the recent addition of the Kennedy & Ravenswood Industrial Corridors) to benefit local industry and businesses that supports the movement of goods and services, workers and residents in the area. The Task Force focuses on transit, major capital infrastructure investment and advocacy to create an industrial corridor that is safe, accessible and functional, competitive and marketable, manageable and attractive. The Infrastructure Task Force is staffed by North Branch Works and key staff from the Chicago Department of Transportation, the Department of Planning & Development, the Office of Emergency Management and Communication and the Chicago Transit Authority with participation by local Aldermanic offices.



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7. **Pedestrian Crossing sign at crossing south of Kingsbury & Evergreen (Lauren, TrueBlue, Ward 27)**
 - a. See #6, Lauren will request to Reggie to make this intersection a 4-way stop.
8. **Stop sign at Cherry/ Blackhawk & Cherry/Hickory or Traffic Control Signage (Ward 27)**
 - a. Lauren will follow up with Reggie from Ward 27 to request the stop signs.
9. **Besly Ct. Industrial Permit Parking Zone- 2 more additional signs on south end of the St. (Lauren, 32nd Ward)**
 - a. Paul Sajovec will review sign designation/mapping and determine if we need to request more. Need to work with Carry in the 32nd Ward office about current signage placement.

New Projects

1. **Unused railroad at Blackhawk / Cherry Street tracks under maintained and potential to convert to parking (Wrigley, Chicago Terminal Railroad)**
 - a. Marty, on behalf of Wrigley, explained the concerns about safety at depressed curb and concerns about aesthetics on section of track near Wrigley Facility. Explained interest in having a highway barrier rail put up for safety. Requested the Chicago Terminal Railroad to re-spray for the weeds. Marty also asked what the need is for the Railroad. Chicago Terminal Railroad said that they've been investigating trans-loading operations and have talked to auto dealers and wholesale food producers/food related businesses in the area. North Branch Works continues to advocate for the presence of the rail as it is important infrastructure that would need to be re-implemented at a great expense if needed in the future.
 - i. Weed maintenance will be followed up with by CTR, Signs for curve will be followed up with by CDOT and NBW
2. **Resurfacing Mendell Street between Cortland & Homer (Ward 2, Mendell St Lofts)**
 - a. Bill requested that Mendell and Homer and McClen streets get resurfaced because they are in poor condition due to heavy truck traffic. Dean asked for digital copies of the street that Bill brought. Dean will request for review for 2017 agenda.
3. **Congestion Concerns at North Ave/Noble St./Besly Ct. (Lauren, Elston Materials, CDOT)**
 - a. Dean will work with 27th Ward and North Branch Works to request CDOT analysis that includes outreach to local property owners.

Additional Notes

1. *Swing Bridge near Finkl and General Iron continues to have copper stolen from it. Chicago Terminal Railroad has recently replaced the copper wire mechanism to secure and make bridge functional.*
 - a. *(General Iron is now pursuing 2-3 cars per week supplied across the swing bridge for regular usage.)*
 - b. *(Sipi Metals is now getting 2 cars per week for outbound materials).*

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2. *General concern about condition of rail track on Cherry St. south of Division St. The RR is in very poor condition, there is exposed rebar and large potholes near the rail that cause safety issues for motorist and bicyclists.*
 - a. *WHAT IS TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS SAFETY ISSUE? CTR said they are working with CDOT to develop strategy/plan to address the safety issue and are committed to getting this work done.*
 - b. *Zack from R^2 also questions the need for railroad, but would like to maintain the track well for historical purposes.*
3. *Question of Rail Crossing at North Ave. as it is in poor condition, numerous requests to update the crossing. CTR has agreed to update the crossing and will be completed by November.*
4. *Idea to reuse infrastructure for a Blackhawk bridge. Zack's suggestion was to relocate the existing Division Street Bridge on the East side of Goose Island to Blackhawk Street to connect the North end of Goose Island to Elston.*
5. *Zack commented that the street lights and traffic signals on Goose Island are in poor condition- when can they be updated to maintain the look of Goose Island? Pole Painting goes through the Alderman's office, Light requests go through CDOT. Will be discussed at next meeting.*
6. *Resurface/reconstruct the old section of Besly Street (North) between the RR track and Cortland. Currently being discussed with the Alderman, CDOT and DPD.*

Completed Projects

- **Street repair on Willow / Marcey St. (2nd Ward Alderman Hopkins)**
 - Willow and Marcey were both completed. Willow Street between Kingsbury and Clybourn and Marcey from Sheffield up to Willow.
- **Besly Ct. Industrial Permit Parking Zone (Howe Corp, Howard Medical)**
 - Tammy and Ross reported that the employees are using the permits, and the street signs are up. There have not been any issues with enforcement of the Industrial Permit Parking Zone.
- **CDOT wrote a letter to Alderman Burnett with the following completed infrastructure improvements: (CDOT)**
 - "Do Not Block Intersection" signs - added to the cantilevered traffic signal and at the corners of North Branch / Division St.
 - Speed Bumps along Hickory & Repainting of Cherry St bumps in yellow
- **Speed Bumps along Hickory & Repainting of Cherry St bumps in yellow (Wrigley, CDOT)**
- **"Do Not Block Intersection" signs added to the cantilevered traffic signal and at the corner of North Branch / Division St. (CDOT)**
- **Signage at Blackhawk/Cherry St to prevent drivers from going on train tracks to Cherry St Pedestrian Bridge (CDOT)**

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