

- Walkable Urban Thoroughfares in Illinois: Steps for Understanding and Overcoming Barriers (*Chris McCahill, Heather Smith - Congress for the New Urbanism*)

Increasingly, communities want major roadways to be designed to support a variety of social and economic functions for all types of road users – including non-motorized users. To help meet these needs, the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) partnered to produce the ITE recommended practice, *Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach*, published in 2010.

In February 2013, CNU partnered with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to host a series of workshops introducing the manual to transportation designers from the greater Chicago area. More than 80 people participated, including members of Illinois Department of Transportation (DOT), county DOTs, municipal agencies and private firms. The workshop offered a unique opportunity for all of its participants to share ideas, identify obstacles to implementation of the manual and offer solutions to overcoming those obstacles.

This presentation provides an overview of the workshop, the events leading up to it and the initial outcomes. Key obstacles identified at the workshop include existing design guidelines, funding priorities and performance measures. This presentation also highlights opportunities for implementing the CNU/ITE recommended practice based on lessons from successful examples around the country.

