Walkable Urban Thoroughfares in Illinois
Steps for Understanding and Overcoming Barriers

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Congress for the New Urbanism
www.cnu.org/streets

Transport Chicago
June 7, 2013
The Manual

Sponsored by FHWA and U.S. EPA

14-year joint effort of CNU and ITE

Technical and steering committees with more than 60 reviewers and balloters
What sets it apart?

**Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)**

Public and stakeholder vision

Design parameters tied to context zones, thoroughfare types and target speed

Figures from CNU/ITE manual
Highway Design Standards

Source: Community, Design + Architecture, Photosimulation: Steve Price, Urban Advantage.
Walkable Thoroughfare Design

Source: Community, Design + Architecture, Photosimulation: Steve Price, Urban Advantage.
+ Walkable Land Use

Source: Community, Design + Architecture, Photosimulation: Steve Price, Urban Advantage.
Workshops in Illinois

April 2012: Meeting between CNU and IDOT

  President John Norquist & Heather Smith, CNU
  Secretary Ann Schneider, IDOT
  Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford
  Council Member Beth Akeson, City of Peoria

Grant from Chicago Community Trust to advance implementation of *GO TO 2040*

February 2013: Two workshops…
Who was involved?

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Illinois Department of Transportation, OPP
Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)
Stacey Meekins, Sam Schwartz Engineering
Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
Who was involved?

Illinois DOT (30)
County (7)
Municipal (19)
Rockford, Peoria, Blue Island, Alsip…
Other public agencies and private firms
Think Differently…
People, Bikes, Businesses
Outcomes

Did the workshop improve your understanding in the following areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban design principles</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete streets</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context sensitive solutions</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts of urban design on health and safety</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts of urban design on economic outcomes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts of urban design on the natural environment</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What issues will the lessons from this workshop help you address?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning and design for pedestrians</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and design for bicycles</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and design for public transit</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and design for motor vehicles in urban areas</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets as places for social interaction</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets that support business</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety in walkable areas</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectivity in walkable areas</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lessons for implementation

Requires engineering flexibility

- Capacity and Level-of-Service
- Design speed
- Parking standards
- Geometrics

Existing system of funding incentives

Complex decision tree

- FHWA, state, counties and municipalities

Training and education
Since the manual’s debut...

Texas DOT – Adopted in *Project Development Process Manual*

City of El Paso, Texas – Adopted as recommended design guidelines

State of Minnesota – Listed in complete streets technical guidance

Broward County (Florida) MPO – Tied to priority funding

Kelso-Longview, Washington – Integrated with Transportation Systems Plan

Required reading in university-level civil engineering courses

Others using manual or considering adoption: Rockford; Peoria; Chicago; Buffalo, NY; State of Rhode Island...

Eight CNU trainings at state and city level

Mayor of Twinsburg, OH, during design charrette
Progress in Illinois this year

- Two-day training workshop
- IDOT officials attend CNU Board Meeting
- IDOT / CNU webcast
- Talks regarding *Long Range State Plan & Illinois Bike Transportation Plan*
- IDOT official at CNU 21 special session
Our next steps

• Survey everyone who has downloaded manual
• Additional meetings with Illinois DOT
• Continued work with CMAP
• Support for communities where training has taken place
• Future webcasts and website overhaul
• Enhancing capacity for future trainings

Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford, IL
How can you move towards implementation?

• Learn more and download the manual – cnu.org/streets
• Find a champion (Mayor or City Council)
• Find local advocates and allies (School Boards, Chambers of Commerce, etc.)

• **Host a CNU workshop**

• Understand the design process in your community and attach yourself to it. What’s in motion and how does your street fit in?

• Keep up with your champions and continue building alliances.

• CNU can help; get in touch and keep us informed.
Thank you!

For updates, visit: www.cnu.org/streets

Anyone interested in hosting a training may contact Heather Smith:

hsmith@cnu.org

312-551-7300 x15

Twinsburg, OH, concept plan from workshop