Little Village Paseo Feasibility Study

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Community Context

- Middle-to-lower income community with high density
- Young (1/3 of the population under 19 years old)
- Little vacant land/open space (.59 acres per 1,000 residents)

General recommendations for open space:
- GO TO 2040 Plan: 4 acres of open space per 1,000 residents
- CitySpace: 2 acres of open space per 1,000 residents
Pilsen-Little Village Land Use Plan: Open Space Goal

- Expand the number and variety of recreational opportunities
- Develop a four-mile linear path providing safe pedestrian travel and environmental benefits for Pilsen and Little Village.

Potential features include:
  - Cross-generational gathering spaces
  - Community gardens
  - Art, mural, or cultural installations
  - Walking/biking
  - Natural areas
  - Stormwater management features

Sections:
- **Sangamon**: No rail user – abandonment process underway
- **Cermak/Blue Island**: One rail user
- **Little Village**: No rail user – abandonment process underway
LV Paseo Feasibility Study Purpose

- Assess existing conditions and determine the trail’s endpoints
- Develop draft traffic recommendations for safe trail/road crossings
- Develop draft design concepts for gateway areas
- Present findings to community stakeholders in order to obtain input
Paseo Route

North Gateway Options

South Gateway Option
Community Context – Land Use

- Mostly residential
- Two major parks; plenty of schools; Cook County Jail
- Light industrial in the middle of transition
Draft Design Concepts for Gateway Areas

CONCEPT 1: GRASSROOTS

- HARDSCAPED BASED DESIGN
- SIMPLE PAVED PLAZA WITH DIAGONAL COLORED CONCRETE BANDS
- ALLOWS FOR ART INSTALLATION SUCH AS MOSAICS AND MURALS
- SCULPTURE PEDESTALS FOR DONATED ART

CONCEPT 2: SOFTSCAPE

- USE PLANTS TO SOFTEN HARDSCAPED CONTEXT
- LOW PLANTED BERMS, COLUMNAR TREES AND WINDING PATHWAYS
- BRIGHT COLORED METAL SCULPTURES THROW SHADOWS ONTO NEIGHBORING WALL ON 26TH
North Gateway – Existing Area

EXISTING: 26TH ST. LOOKING WEST FROM CALIFORNIA AVE.
North Gateway (Between California and Sacramento)

CROSS SECTION: 26TH ST. LOOKING WEST FROM CALIFORNIA AVE.
Typical Draft Traffic Recommendations

• Wayfinding signage
• High visibility crosswalks
• Sight distance for trail users/vehicular traffic
• Either new or widened sidewalks (as needed)
• Pedestrian refuge islands (as needed)
• Lighting/landscaping at trail/road crossing points
• Intersection near La Villita Park: add stop signs
• Midblock crossing on Kedzie: explore possibility of a pedestrian signal
Community Stakeholders

- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)
- Enlace / 96 Acres
- Little Village Chamber of Commerce (SSA or BID)
- Marshall Square Resource Network
- Community residents
- Schools (principals / teachers / students / parents)
Community Engagement Process

- Awareness of the project with key community organizations and alderman staff within the study area
- Individual stakeholder meetings early in the process
- Utilizing connections made early in the process to spread the word about the community meeting
Next Steps

Feasibility Study
- Draft gateway options
- Draft traffic (street/trail crossing) recommendations

Phase I
- Engineering and design
- Survey / environmental study / BNSF negotiations

Phase II
- Engineering (final construction plans and cost estimate)

Phase III
- Construction and construction engineering
  - Public outreach throughout the process
  - Phases I, II and III area not currently funded
Lessons Learned

• Continuous, meaningful engagement with community residents and stakeholders is critical
• New open space opportunities need to be explored within the context of other community concerns and priorities
• Inter- and intra-agency coordination is essential in both the planning and implementation phases of projects