

Trail Traffic on Chicago's Lakefront Trail

presented by MARISSA DOLIN, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE on 06.07.2013

Project partners: Friends of the Parks, Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA)



Answering the Big Questions

- What's the big deal about Chicago's Lakefront Trail?
- How do USERS perceive the Lakefront Trail?

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Chicago's Lakefront Trail

- 18.5 miles long
- 52 access points



Chicago's Lakefront Trail

- 18.5 miles long
- 52 access points
- ALL modes of non-motorized travel
 - 70% foot traffic
 - *(2.5-10 mph)*
 - 30% bike traffic
 - *(10-20+ mph)*



Chicago's Lakefront Trail

- 18.5 miles long
- 52 access points
- ALL modes of non-motorized travel
- 70,000+ visitors/day
- 30,000 ADT



20,000 visitors



70,000 visitors



Lakefront Protection Ordinance

- Devoted only to public purposes
- Continuous pedestrian movement along the shoreline
- Pedestrian access to the lake and lakefront parks from and through areas adjacent every $\frac{1}{4}$ mile
- To promote and provide for improved public transportation access to the lakefront

Source: Chicago Municipal Code 16-4

Friends of the Lakefront Trail



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
ALLIANCE



Chicago's Best Friend



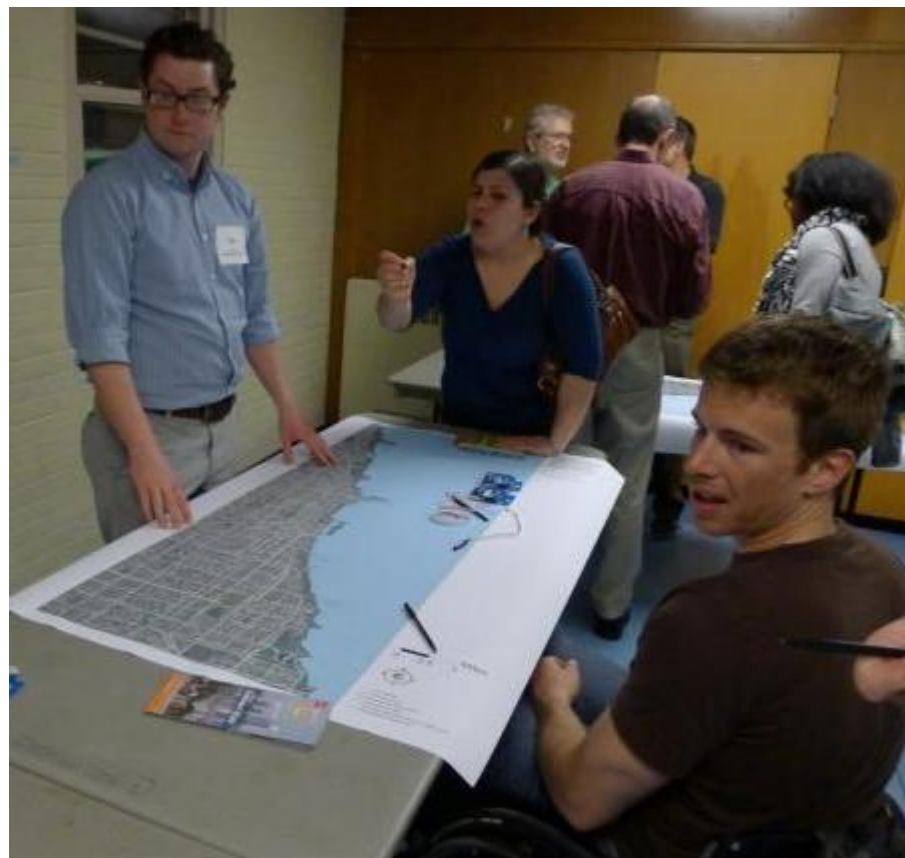
CARA
CHICAGO AREA RUNNERS ASSOCIATION

- Friends of the Lakefront Trail represents the interests of Lakefront Trail users and pushes for improving the recreation and transportation conditions on the trail.
 - Major infrastructure projects
 - Monitor major issues and projects
 - Provide current conditions updates #chiLFT

WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT?

User preference survey

- Spring/Summer 2012
- 1,500+ participants
 - 2 public meetings
 - Online survey



Survey topics

- Policy/Design
- Etiquette
- Congestion
- Conflict
- Crashes

Policy/Design

1. Provide more separate spaces different modes
2. Reduce congestion and conflicts on the trail
3. Educate trail users on safety and trail etiquette
4. Improve basic trail maintenance and condition of asphalt and soft surfaces

Etiquette

1. People clogging traffic by traveling two or more abreast
2. People blocking or standing in the trail
3. People not moving to the right to make way for faster traffic

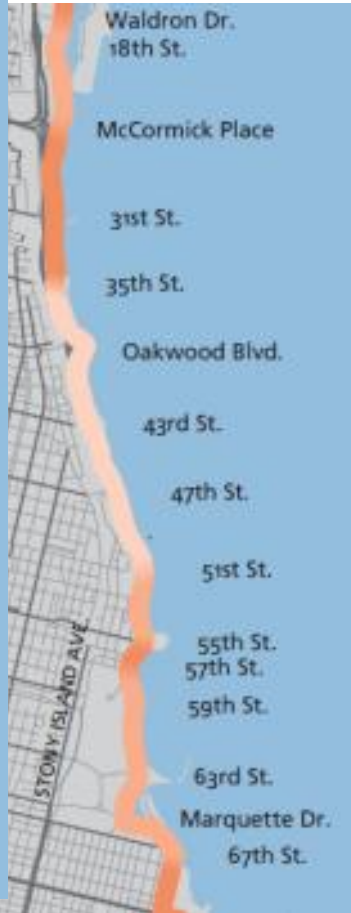
Congestion along the trail



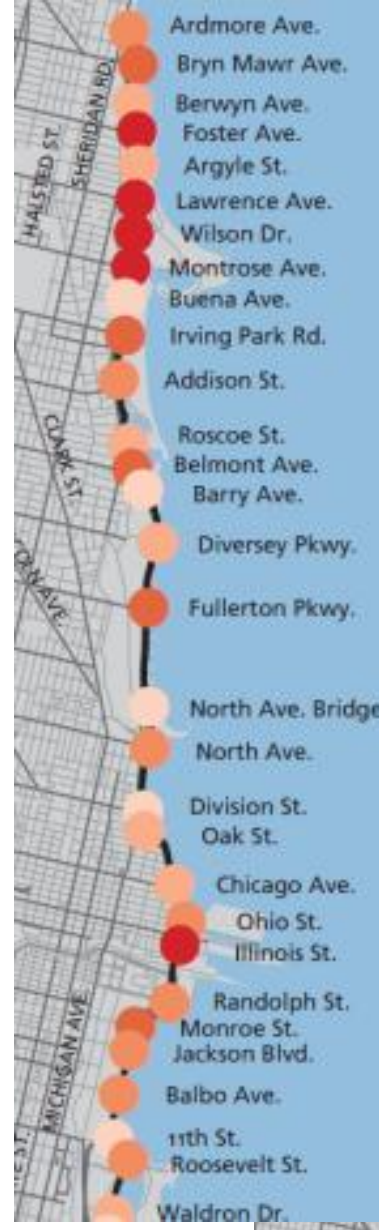
Congestion at access points



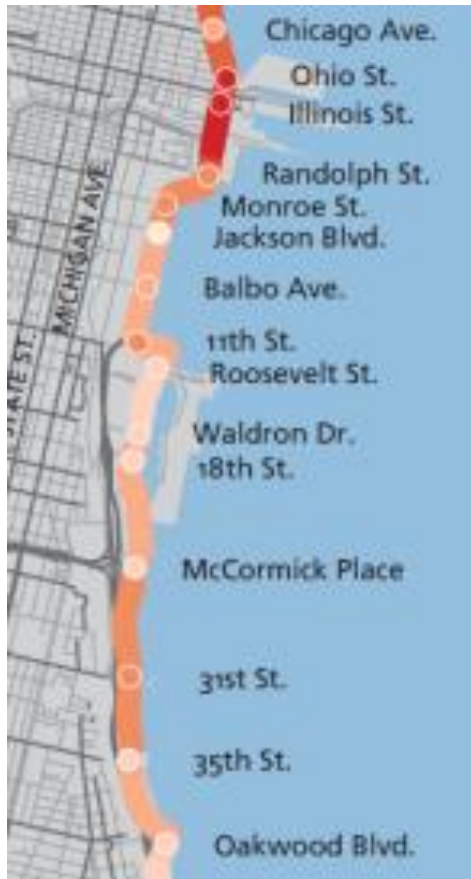
Conflict along the trail



Conflict at access points



Crashes



Principals

- Access
- Safe, continuous route
- Maintenance
- Obey trail etiquette

Next Steps and Opportunities

- Ongoing operations and maintenance
- Navy Pier Flyover
- North Lakeshore Drive Reconstruction

Q+A

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Full report found at:

http://activetrans.org/sites/default/files/docs/People_on_the_Trail_FINAL_05292013.pdf