



SANDERS ROAD STUDY

Spring 2021 Newsletter



ImproveSandersRoad.org

Study Overview

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) initiated the Sanders Road Preliminary Engineering and Environmental (Phase I) Study in 2017 to address the existing deficiencies on Sanders Road between Milwaukee Avenue and Techny Road.

The project team analyzed the existing roadway and intersection deficiencies, developed a proposed improvement plan based on corridor needs and community input and examined impacts that the proposed improvements could have on the community and environment.

Based on the study goals and community input, the project team’s proposed improvements include, but are not limited to, pavement rehabilitation by means of reconstruction, drainage infrastructure upgrades and an added traffic signal at Winkleman Road. Additionally, the project’s improvements include a shared-use path and a sidewalk that are designed to enable safe access for all users and meet DoTH’s Complete Streets Policy which emphasizes a comprehensive, integrated and connected network of transportation options for all modes. Please review the rest of the newsletter which details the proposed corridor improvements.

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Study Goals:



Safety improvements for all users



Enhanced accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians



Improved mobility and access



Determine a long-term pavement solution

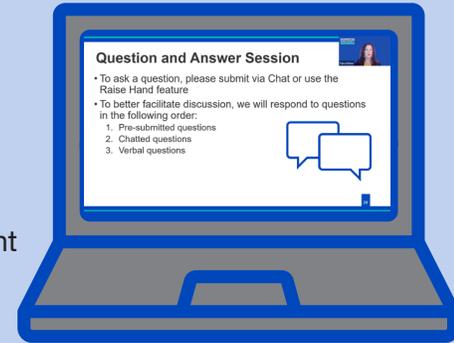


Virtual Public Information Meeting Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended the Virtual Public Information Meeting for the Sanders Road Phase I Study! The project team values your input and has been busy reviewing your comments.

The meeting included two components: a project website, www.ImproveSandersRoad.org, which contained the meeting presentation and exhibits and a live virtual meeting on March 4, 2021. The public information meeting was held in a virtual format in order to meet the State of Illinois' guidance regarding gatherings of large groups and physical distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 47 participants attended the live meeting, including two Cook County Commissioners. During the meeting, the project team provided a presentation followed by a moderated question-and-answer session during which the project

team responded to participants' comments and questions. In order to accommodate for participants with limited internet access, physical copies of the meeting materials and comment cards were provided at the Village of Glenview's Village Hall and the City of Prospect Heights' City Hall. The project team received a total of 26 comments through the end of the comment period, March 25, 2021. The primary comment themes included pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and the roadway infrastructure. Read more about the comment themes heard at the meeting below.



What We Have Heard from You!

Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations

The majority of comments that were provided, as well as the overall sentiment heard during the live virtual meeting, expressed overall support for the proposed pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and improvements. Several of those who voiced their support requested that the accommodations be extended north of Techny Road to the Mission Hills neighborhood and as far north as Walters Avenue. To address these requests, DoTH and the Cook County Commissioners within the area's jurisdiction plan to perform community outreach in the future to gather input from residents.

An additional comment was provided that requested for the five-foot sidewalk on the east side of Sanders Road to continue north of Winkleman Road in order to provide a seamless connection for residents to the

commercial areas on the north end of the study corridor. While developing the proposed improvements, the project team set a goal to minimize impacts to the sign and driveway of the daycare located within the corridor as well as land acquisition.

The proposed improvements include a signalized section at Sanders Road and Winkleman Road so that pedestrians and bicyclists may cross to the west side of the roadway, where a shared-used path or sidewalk is located, and continue northbound to the commercial areas.



Participants also requested for the County to consider seamless infrastructure and connections for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the study area and specifically the Des Plaines River Trail. The proposed improvements on the west side of Sanders Road, north of Willow Road, provide this connection to the Cook County Forest Preserve. The project team has documented this feedback and will carry it forward into future projects to meet the County's Complete Streets Policy and provide further entry points to the Des Plaines River Trail.



Roadway Infrastructure

During the meeting and through submitted feedback, participants expressed overall support for the proposed roadway improvements, including the planned traffic light at Sanders Road and Winkleman Road. Similar to the pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, there was a desire for the proposed roadway reconstruction to extend north, past Techny Road, to Mission Hills Road. The County regularly performs assessments of the full roadway network (1,420 lane miles) to determine the greatest needs. Based on the latest assessments, the pavement condition within the project limits is more deteriorated than the pavement north of Techny Road. The County has documented this input and provided it to the agency's maintenance team who can assess and confirm if spot improvements can be done in the near future to address any urgent needs.



Participants also requested for the proposed improvements to encourage a reduction in motor vehicle speed which would improve safety for other users as well. Suggestions included decreasing the speed limit and reducing the width of the lanes. DoTH has reviewed and confirmed the current speed limit and proposed lane widths are appropriate for the roadway. The proposed improvements seek to mitigate conflicts and improve safety by providing a signalized intersection at Sanders Road and Winkleman Road which will include crossing signals for pedestrians and bicyclists. This will provide a continued connection for pedestrians and bicyclists from the southern end of the corridor to the northern end. It should be noted that concerns at the intersections of Willow Road and Sanders Road and Milwaukee Avenue and Sanders Road are currently being addressed through separate Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects and are not within the scope of the study.

Additional comments were provided that questioned the projected traffic data within the corridor, noting

that there are a limited number of parcels that could be developed in the future. The projected traffic data that was used during the study was provided from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) which is a nationally accepted and used as resource for transportation and infrastructure projects within the Chicagoland region.



Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways Complete Streets Policy

What are Complete Streets?

Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

What is DoTH's Complete Streets Policy?

The Policy outlines the County's commitment to creating a comprehensive, integrated and connected network of transportation options for all modes.



Corridor Improvements

To meet the goals of the study, the project team developed proposed improvements that fit the context of various sections of the corridor.

Existing Conditions

Sanders Road is currently a five-lane roadway, with two lanes in each direction and a center two-way left turn lane. The provided cross section is the standard roadway configuration throughout the corridor except for intersections and major driveways. The existing roadway does not accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.



Proposed Improvements - Evergreen Lane to Willow Road*

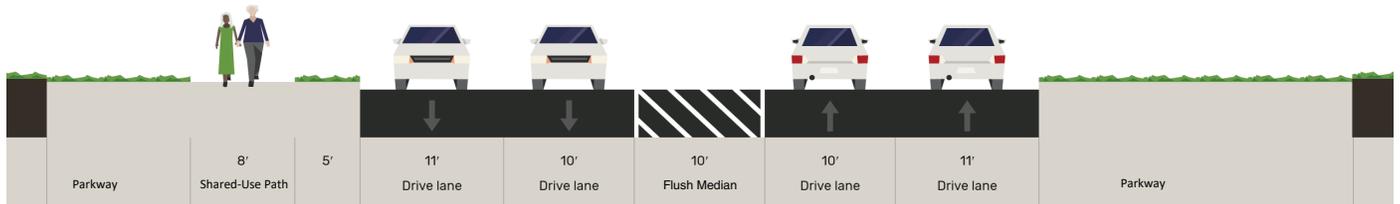
- Maintain the signalized intersection at Sanders Road and the CVS driveway but will replace the existing traffic signal equipment with upgraded signals and controller.
- Reconstruct the roadway pavement and maintain two lanes in each direction with a dedicated left turning lane at the intersection.
- Maintain the flush medians recently constructed with a two-foot wide curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway.
- Install a five-foot sidewalk on both sides of the roadway to meet the County’s Complete Streets Policy and provide connectivity to the Cook County Forest Preserve.



Sanders Road looking North

Proposed Improvements - Willow Road to Winkleman Road*

- Continue reconstruction of the pavement while maintaining two lanes in each direction and a center lane for left turns.
- Maintain the flush medians with a two-foot wide curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway.
- Install an eight-foot shared use path on the west side of Sanders Road, continuing pedestrian and cyclist connectivity through the corridor.
- Remove the existing driveway just north of the Allstate Parkway on the west side of Sanders Road, as this does not provide access to a serviceable location.

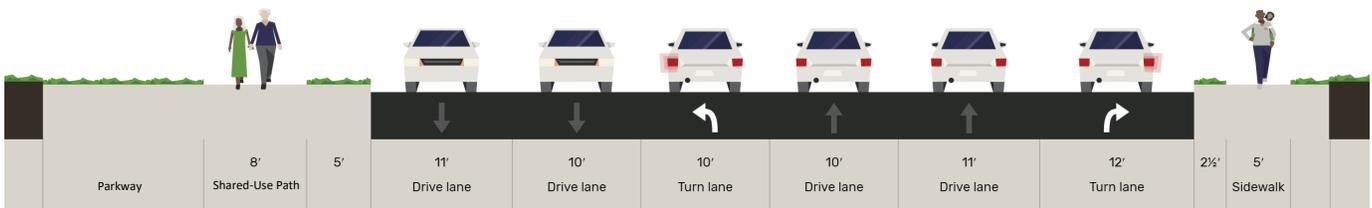


Sanders Road looking North

*Note that limits are approximate, please reference the aerial map exhibit online for specific limits by visiting ImproveSandersRoad.org.

Proposed Improvements - Winkleman Road and Sanders Road Intersection

- Add a traffic signal to improve safety and relieve congestion at the intersection.
- Widen the west leg of Winkleman Road to provide dedicated left and right turn lanes for eastbound traffic.
- Install crosswalks and pedestrian actuated pushbuttons.
- Remove one of the access points to the parking lot on the west side of Sanders Road to improve traffic flow.
- Install an eight-foot shared use path on the west side of Sanders Road and a five-foot sidewalk on the east side of Sanders Road south of Winkleman Road, which will continue south to the end of the project corridor at Milwaukee Avenue.



Sanders Road looking North

Proposed Improvements - Winkleman Road to Milwaukee Avenue

- Continue reconstruction of the pavement while maintaining two lanes in each direction and a center lane for two-way left turn lanes into neighborhood streets and parking facilities.
- Maintain the two-foot wide curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway.
- Install an eight-foot shared use path on the west side of Sanders Road and a five-foot sidewalk on the east side of Sanders Road to connect existing intermittent sidewalk facilities.
- Replace 800' of storm sewer with larger diameter pipe for stormwater detention to help better manage excess runoff.



Sanders Road looking North

If you were unable to attend the meeting or would like to review the meeting materials, please visit the project website, www.ImproveSandersRoad.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Didn't you just repair/fix Sanders Road?

Cook County resurfaced the roadway in 2019, but that was only a short-term fix as it only addressed the pavement surface. The pavement below the surface and sub-grade have reached the end of its useful life and full reconstruction is needed. This project is also providing other comprehensive long-term improvements such as pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, upsizing of the sewer south of Winkleman and other roadway infrastructure enhancements.

When would construction occur?

Construction start date has not been determined at this time but is anticipated to begin in 2024 or 2025. This would occur after the completion of Phase II design, pending project readiness, land acquisition and project funding. Construction is anticipated to last 12-18 months.

How is this project funded?

The project is funded by a combination of Illinois Motor Fuel Tax and *REBUILD Illinois* Bond Funds.

Why is there no shared-use path on the west side of the street between Willow Road and the Forest Preserve entrance?

The shared-use path is not proposed in this area due to the presence of the endangered Eastern Massasauga

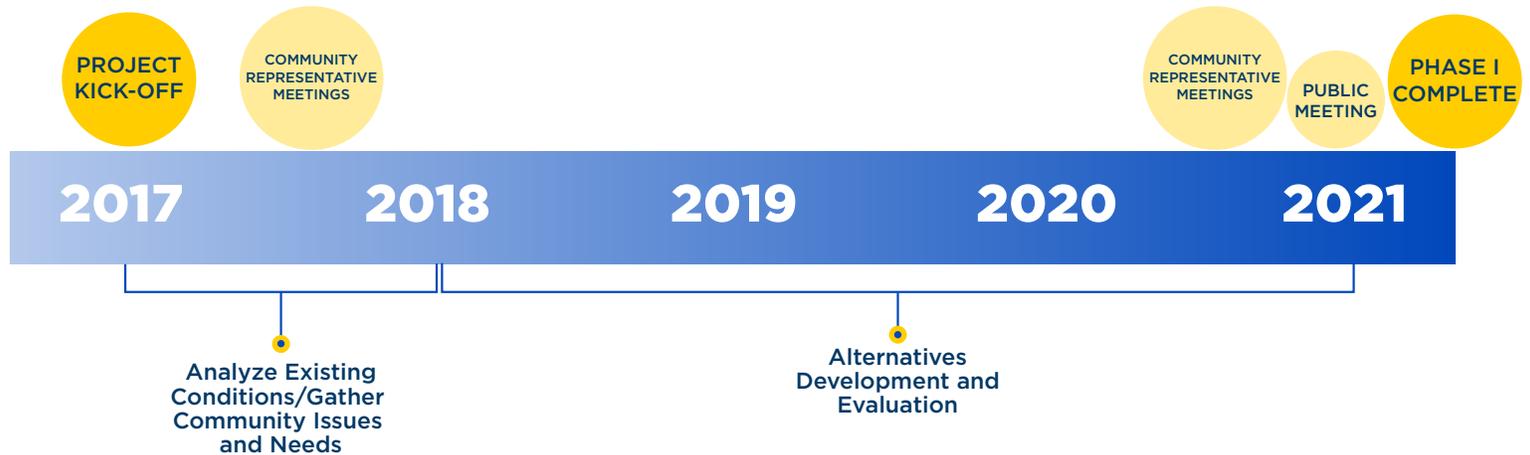
rattlesnake. As part of the Willow Road project, IDOT has been coordinating closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and foot traffic is to be restricted in this area.

Are you impacting properties? Which properties? What is this process?

The project team aimed to keep all improvements and construction within the existing public right of way. However, the improvements require property acquisition and construction easements. A construction easement is anticipated for approximately 27 properties while minor land acquisition in front of properties is anticipated for approximately 9 properties. All owners of properties for which a right of way acquisition or an easement is anticipated have been notified via letter.

All land to be acquired will follow Cook County land acquisition policies and processes. Phase II design begins after Phase I Study receives design approval. During Phase II design, the County will confirm the impacts and the amount of property to be acquired for the project. The County will work closely with affected property owners and appraisers during this time.

Project Schedule



Next Steps

DoTH is currently in the process of finalizing the Project Report for the Phase I study. Phase I is anticipated to be complete in late-spring 2021. Phase II, which consists of design engineering documents, is anticipated to begin by 2022. Construction (Phase III) is expected to begin in 2024 or 2025, pending project readiness, land acquisition and funding and is anticipated to last 12-18 months.

Please send any comments or questions pertaining to the study to Jennifer Skrebo, P.E., Project Manager at info@ImproveSandersRoad.org.