



# NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE STUDY SPOTLIGHTS

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

September 2020

As the North Lake Shore Drive corridor continues to experience the effects of climate change, the NLSD Phase I Study project team remains committed to developing designs and improvements to mitigate and adapt to these impacts. Using the goals set forth in the study's Purpose & Need, including improving mobility for all users, improving access and circulation throughout the corridor, and addressing infrastructure deficiencies, we continue to plan for the future realities of environmental impacts. Along with the study's objectives, we also are mindful of regional plans, such as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) GO TO 2040 and ON TO 2050, as well as the Chicago Climate Action Plan, which have helped guide our decision-making.

During the Level 3 Screening process in the upcoming year, we will evaluate the remaining alternatives based upon a combination of climate related factors. The project team remains dedicated to redesigning a North Lake Shore Drive corridor that will provide climate resiliency and sustainability for decades to come.





The North Lake Shore Drive project team has reached a critical milestone in the study process as we plan to recommend a narrowed range of alternatives to be carried to the next stage of analysis later this year! In preparation for this next step and to provide a refresher on some improvements common to all alternatives, the project team has prepared a few Study Spotlights, each focusing on a specific topic important to understanding the Study.

### REDEFINE THE DRIVE



N O R T H  
L A K E S H O R E D R I V E

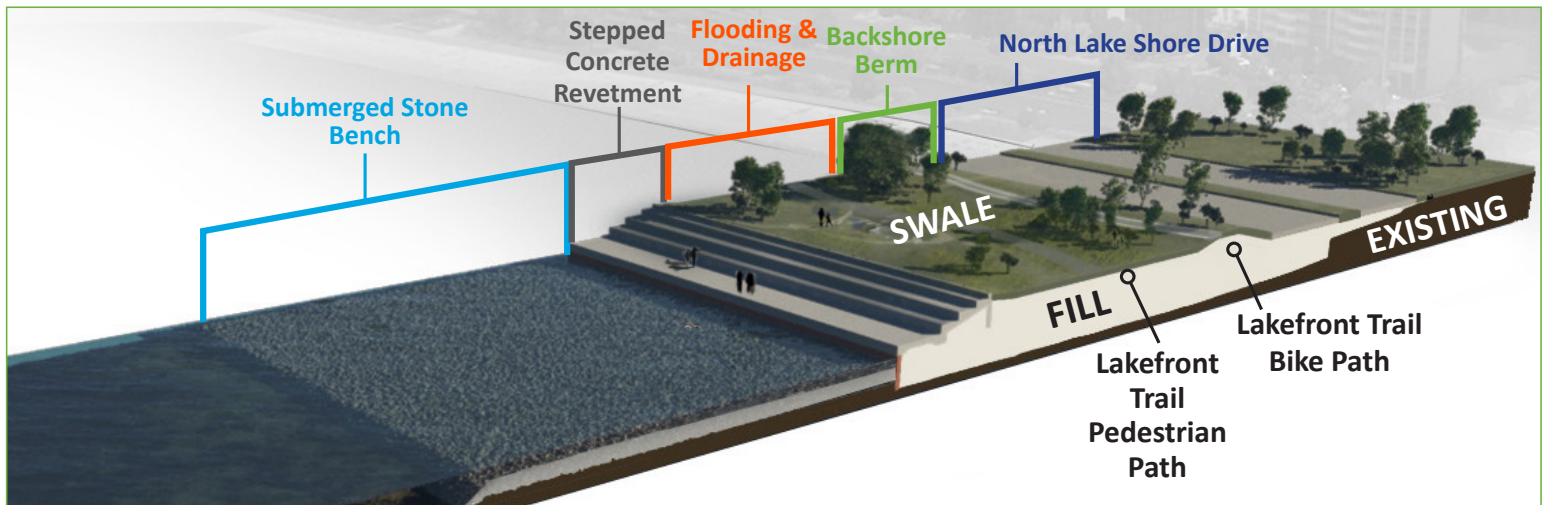
### All alternatives will strengthen NLSD's green and gray infrastructure to mitigate stormwater and rising lake level challenges.

-  Add **59 or more acres of green space** within the corridor depending on the alternative.
-  Incorporate **shoreline protection techniques** from Grand Avenue to Fullerton Parkway which includes adding fill into the lake, expanding the shoreline and constructing state of the art infrastructure to contain overtopping waves and return storm flows to the lake, thereby protecting North Lake Shore Drive and the Lakefront Trail.
-  Add **green infrastructure** throughout the corridor to reduce the amount of stormwater that flows into the City's combined sewer system. Various green infrastructure techniques may be deployed where needed throughout the project area to provide additional stormwater management. These techniques may include bioswales, filter strips, infiltration basins and pervious pavement.
-  Improve **drainage facilities** at pedestrian underpasses to prevent flooding during heavy rain events.



Rendering of potential green space expansion on southern end of NLSD corridor

# Representative example of possible enhanced shoreline protection



## Potential green infrastructure techniques



Plantings and vegetation would also be used to filter and manage stormwater



Examples of pervious pavement



## Preliminary Level 3 Screening Criteria

In this next phase of the screening process, the project team will review the remaining alternatives against an expanded set of evaluation criteria, including Social, Economic and Environmental effects, as well as Purpose and Need factors. Some of the preliminary Environmental evaluation criteria include the following:

- Climate change
- Natural resources
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Historic Structures/Section 106
- Park facilities/Section 4(f)
- Change in paved surface and green space
- Environmental Justice
- Surface water quality
- Waters of the U.S.
- Visual effects
- Traffic noise
- Air quality
- Indirect and cumulative effects

## All alternatives will improve public transportation performance

Enhancing performance of the public transit system will improve mobility, increase reliability, and reduce travel times. Alleviating congestion and improving the efficiency of traffic movement will reduce emissions and benefit the surrounding environment.



*Read more about transit improvements in the Transit Improvements Study Spotlight!*

## All alternatives will improve accommodations for people who bike and walk

Improving accommodations for people who bike and walk will encourage alternative forms of transportation. This will be further enhanced by improving accessibility to, and functional connections between, parks and green spaces throughout the NLSD corridor.



*Read more about accommodations for people who bike and people who walk in the Lakefront Trail and Park Access Study Spotlight!*

The project team is pleased to share these Study Spotlights with you. If you have any comments on the information in this handout, or any other project materials, please use the online comment form to provide input: [northlakeshoredrive.org/contact.html](http://northlakeshoredrive.org/contact.html)

**We welcome feedback at any time during the project process.  
We look forward to continuing to work with you to Redefine the Drive!**