



LAKEFRONT TRAIL AND PARK ACCESS

September 2020

Since the last public meeting in 2017, the project team has continued to develop design concepts for the Lakefront Trail and park access to enhance the experience for all users. We are pleased to share these updates with you and look forward to continuing to receive on how we can improve the corridor.

The North Lake Shore Drive corridor is home to a beautiful and heavily used trail system and collection of park resources. It is a priority of this project to improve the condition and functionality of the Lakefront Trail and park access for people walking, bicycling, and using various other slower-speed forms of mobility.

The study's Purpose and Need calls for improving safety and mobility for all users, improving access and circulation, and addressing the infrastructure deficiencies on the trails and at the junctions. To meet these goals, the project team has conducted bicycle and pedestrian counts, assessed the historic and environmental features in the park, taken into consideration the Lincoln Park Framework Plan, analyzed shoreline protection techniques, and worked closely with the Chicago Park District. Stakeholder input has been a key component to designing the Lakefront Trail and park access concepts. For a visual understanding of the proposed designs, please see the renderings on page 2.

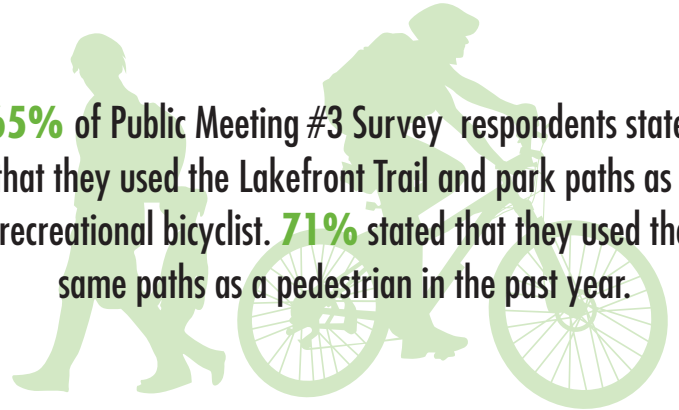
The North Lake Shore Drive project team has reached a critical milestone in the study process as we plan to recommend a narrowed range of alternatives to be carried to the next stage of analysis later this year! In preparation for this next step and to provide a refresher on some improvements common 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

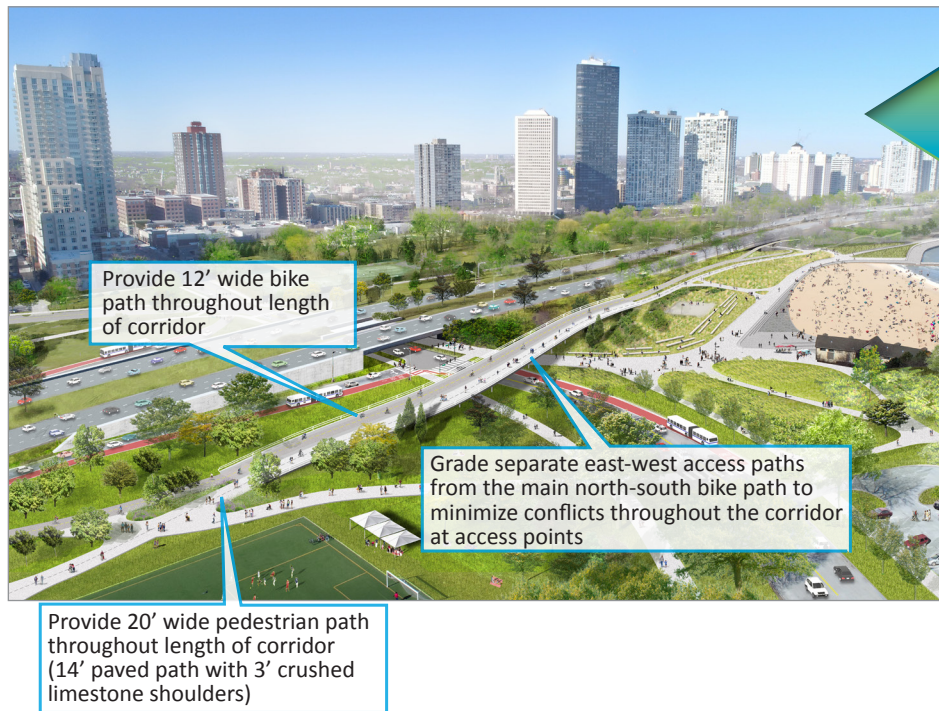
65% of Public Meeting #3 Survey respondents stated that they used the Lakefront Trail and park paths as a recreational bicyclist. **71%** stated that they used the same paths as a pedestrian in the past year.



The project team has been following these design goals for redesigning the LFT and park access facilities:

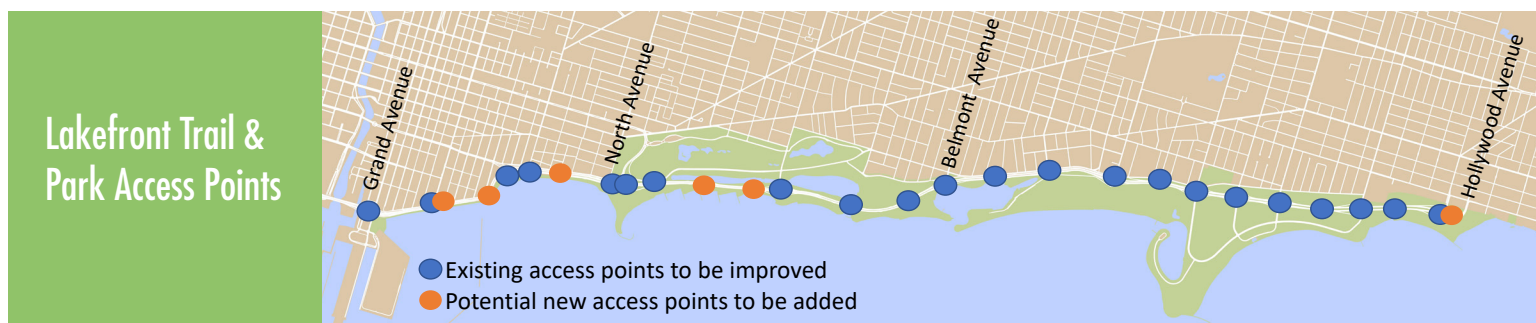
- Improve safety and reduce congestion
- Minimize conflicts between trail users at access points
- Increase the frequency of lakefront access facilities, ideally every 1/4 mile
- Reduce flooding
- Improve the size, visibility, and aesthetics of lakefront access facilities
- Improve visibility and aesthetics at access points
- Ensure that all facilities are ADA compliant.

Rendering of a representative improved Lakefront Trail and parks access point



All alternatives will...

- **Maintain and improve** upon the recent Lakefront Trail bike and pedestrian path separation to provide safer conditions for all modes.
- **Increase** the widths and vertical clearances of lakefront access facilities (east-west access points) to address infrastructure deficiencies, improve visibility and aesthetics, achieve ADA compliance and to better accommodate existing and expected future demand. Widths of most pedestrian underpasses and overpasses would be increased from 10 feet to as much as 50 feet wide.
- **Improve** drainage facilities at pedestrian tunnels to prevent flooding during large rainfall events.
- **Increase** the frequency of lakefront access facilities to achieve the long-standing goal of lakefront access every quarter mile or less. Lakefront access facilities are proposed to increase from 22 existing to 28 proposed access points.
- **Grade separate** north-south trails from motor vehicles at junctions to minimize conflict points and enhance safety



Rendering of potential shoreline and park space expansion



All alternatives will...

- **Expand** park space by a minimum of 59 acres, a 35% increase.
- **Add** promenades, expand recreation areas, preserve natural areas, and improve dedicated areas for dogs.

Rendering of potential new underpass



Read more about the shoreline protection techniques in the Study Spotlight focused on Climate Change and Environment.

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

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