

Chicago Mobility Collaborative

September 29, 2022

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

**Number of Attendees:** 159 (including CDOT staff)

**CDOT Staff Attendees:** Gia Biagi (Commissioner), Amanda Woodall (Program Director), Romina Castillo (Director of Outreach and Engagement), Jamie Simone (Deputy Commissioner), Vig Krishnamurthy (Deputy Commissioner), Dave Smith (Complete Streets Manager), Kurt Facknitz (Complete Streets Engineer)

**CTA Staff Attendees:** Jason Meter (Sr. Manager, Traffic Planning), Jennifer Henry (Sr. Manager, Bus Strategic Planning & Policy)

**CDOT Consultant Attendees:** Aaron Gatdula, Sid Shah, Brad Huff, Colleen Kelch, Angel Montalvo, Shameka Turner, Emme Williams

#### **Summary of Meeting:**

The meeting opened with a welcome and introductions from CDOT leadership (Commissioner Biagi, and Vig Krishnamurthy). There were two special introductions at the beginning of this meeting, the first of which was Romina Castillo, CDOT's new Director of Outreach and Engagement, and the second was the CMC Leadership Group. Ruth Rosas, a member of the CMC Leadership Group, introduced themselves and spoke about their interest in joining the Leadership Group and how the group can elevate the work of the CMC. After introductions, Dave Smith transitioned to a short presentation about the four proceeding breakout sessions for the meeting (Bikeways, Pedestrian Projects, Transit Projects, and Engagement or the SAFE Ambassadors). Participants were able to choose their own breakout groups to join, after which CDOT facilitators presented on current projects, strategies, and goals by the specific modes. Participants and CDOT staff spent 65 minutes in breakout groups having discussions and Q&A time. Once returned from the breakout groups, each facilitator summarized the discussion and provided action items for continuing collaboration. Commissioner Biagi closed the meeting thanking everyone for their time.

#### **Breakout Session Summaries:**

##### **Bikeways/Neighborhood Networks**

- Facilitators: Dave Smith & Brad Huff of the Bikeways team
- Presentation Topics:
  - CDOT's Cycling Strategy
  - Neighborhood Bike Networks approach
  - Implementation hurdles

- Lessons learned and recent achievements
- High-level Participant Feedback:
  - Participants were primarily concerned with improving cyclist safety at intersections.
  - Other pain points mentioned: access across the Sanitary and Ship Canal, how to use contra-flow bike lanes, and connecting West and Southwest communities to the rest of the city's bike network.
  - Comments regarding arterial resurfacing as a tool to build protected bike lanes whenever streets are resurfaced.
  - The greatest interest among participants was in the Neighborhood Bike Networks strategy, and participants expressed interest in learning more about this specific topic in future meetings.

### **Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements**

- Facilitators: Siddharth Shah & Romina Castillo
- Presentation Topics:
  - Vision Zero Neighborhood Action Plans
  - Chicago Works capital bond
  - Left turn traffic calming and other rapid delivery projects
  - How CDOT strategizes locations for safety improvements
- High-level Feedback:
  - Participants urged CDOT to be bolder in implementing pedestrian improvements
  - Part of the discussion centered around how CDOT could make state jurisdiction roads safer, such as North Avenue.
    - Other points mentioned: banning right turns on red, accessible pedestrian signals, and sidewalk snow clearance
  - More agencies and agency representatives should be involved in future meetings, such as the Mayor's Office, IDOT, and ward offices. This can increase cross-coordination and get agencies out of their specific siloes.

### **Transit/Better Streets for Buses**

- Facilitators: CDOT welcomed Chicago Transit Authority staff, Jason Meter and Jennifer Henry, as guest facilitators for this meeting; Kurt Facknitz of CDOT joined
- Presentation Topics:
  - Better Streets for Buses Plan
  - Bus stop accessibility improvements
  - Bus priority zones and its associated toolkit of infrastructure improvements
  - Other short-term and long-term strategy areas such as bus electrification
- High-level Feedback:
  - Participants shared concerns with curbside bus lanes, as they do not discourage private vehicles from blocking them and their peak-hour enforcement confuses road users.
  - Bus lane enforcement was another topic of discussion that elicited great feedback. Participants were strongly in favor of barrier protected bus lanes to increase bus lane compliance.

- Questions were raised regarding how CDOT/CTA would implement Bus Rapid Transit improvements.
- [The Justice 40 framework](#) was brought up as a model for CDOT to provide infrastructure in the city more equitably.

### **Engagement/SAFE Ambassadors**

- Facilitators: Amanda Woodall, Angel Montalvo, and Shameka Turner.
  - Angel and Shameka manage the SAFE Ambassadors, the engagement arm for CDOT.
- Presentation Topics:
  - CDOT's goals for crash reduction and modeshift
  - Learn to Ride classes
  - SAFE Routes to School presentations
  - Bike Chicago free bike giveaway
- High-level Feedback
  - Participants urged CDOT to increase communications for bringing bikes onto CTA trains.
  - One suggested working with new partners like park advisory councils and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.
  - Child passenger safety is a way to connect with drivers and start discussions about safe behaviors.
  - [Disability Lead](#), a Chicago nonprofit working to increase inclusion for people with disabilities, was mentioned as another organization to partner with.