



Agenda Item No: 8

**Historic Preservation Commission
Agenda Supplement**

<u>Meeting Date:</u>	September 2, 2021
<u>Item:</u>	Crystal Lake & Pingree Road Strategic Action Plan Discussion
<u>Action:</u>	Discussion of the Plan

Background:

- The City was awarded a Local Technical Assistance Grant from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to select a consultant to draft a transit oriented development (TOD) plan.
- This TOD plan establishes a vision to promote a multi-modal environment, create welcoming and unique destinations, and maximize the potential of undeveloped and underutilized land around the Crystal Lake and Pingree Road Metra Stations.
- The plan is a guiding document.

Public Participation History:

- The TOD plan consultants and the City solicited public comment through several outlets.
 - Steering Committee. A steering committee was put together by the City and members were selected based on their ability to guide the plan vision for pedestrian, bicycle, housing, and transportation improvements. Members of the steering committee included a bicycle advocate, representatives from the transit authorities, a home builder, a local resident and employee of the county department of transportation, a member of the Downtown Crystal Lake Business Association, and the core team of the RTA, consultant group, and City staff. The initial kick-off meeting with the steering committee was in June of 2020.
 - Website. The City's Planning and Economic Development home page lists the status of the plan, a link to the Vision Event and Panel Discussion meeting recording, and a link to the plan's website. The webpage was created in July of 2020.
 - Postcards and Flyers. The City posted flyers around City Hall starting in August of 2020. There were also comment cards stacked at the Community Development and Finance counters with a project description and how to participate in providing feedback, as well as staying informed with the progress of the plan.
 - Private Media. The website StreetsBlog did an article post on the City's transit plan, which included links and how to participate in providing feedback. The article was published online in September of 2020. The RTA also posted information about the project on their site.

- Newsletter. The City's newsletter was used to provide periodic updates and invite the public to events. The October 2020 newsletter advertised the Vision Event and Panel Discussion via Zoom. The August 2021 newsletter advertised the Open House events.
- Vision Event and Panel Discussion. The City hosted a Virtual Presentation with representatives from Public Works/Engineering/Transportation, Economic Development, Planning, and the Consultant Team to present the vision for the TOD plan and take initial feedback from the public. This Virtual Presentation was held on October 27th via Zoom starting at 6:30pm.
- Social Media. The City used its social media platforms to request public input via the Maps.Social site and the project website. An initial post was made in July of 2020. A follow up post requesting additional participation was made in December of 2020.
- Open House. The City held a public Open House on August 12th to present the final draft of the plan to the public and answer any questions. The Virtual Open House was via Zoom from 10 am-11am. The in-person presentation was from 4pm-7pm. Members from the public and the steering committee stopped in to listen to the explanation of the exhibits and ask questions.

Current Steps:

- The City is holding the public hearing for the plan adoption before the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 1, 2021.
- The TOD plan is scheduled on the September 7, 2021 City Council meeting for final adoption.