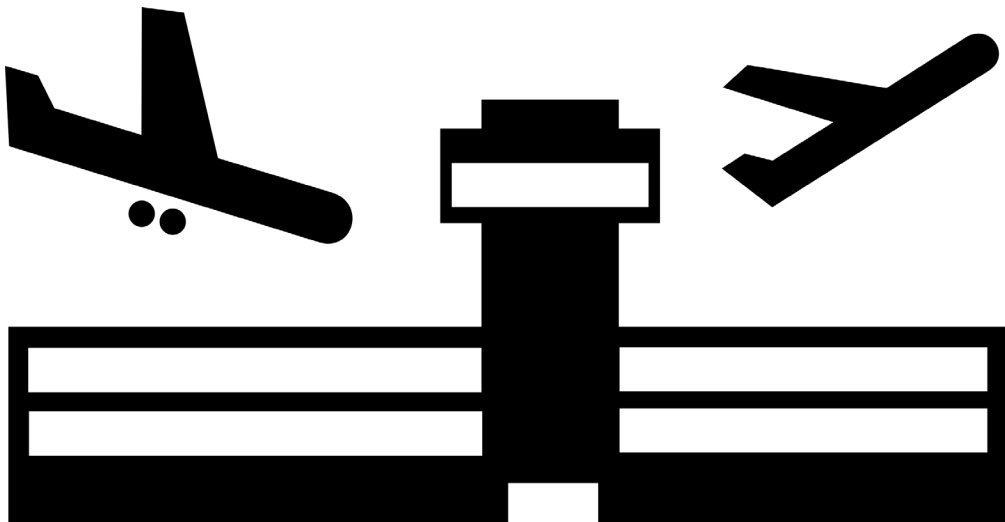


# **Gateway to Midway Committee**

**Improvement Plan for the S. Cicero Avenue Corridor**  
**55<sup>th</sup> Street North to the Stevenson Expressway**

October 25, 2017

***Identified by Ward Boundaries***



### *Introduction*

Pursuant to United Business Association of Midway (UBAM) Resolution 2017-01A, adopted March 15, 2017 a copy of which is enclosed, the **Gateway to Midway Committee** has been established.

This Committee seeks the cooperation of the Mayor of Chicago – Rahm Emanuel, the Aldermen of Wards 13 – Marty Quinn, 14 – Edward M. Burke, 22 – Ricardo Munoz, and 23 – Michael R. Zalewski, and the office of Congressman Daniel Lipinski, to direct the various City of Chicago and Federal Departments and/or Agencies to implement the following improvements for the revitalization of the Cicero Avenue Corridor from the Stevenson Expressway south to 55<sup>th</sup> Street.

## ***Short Term – Immediate Quick Fixes***

Aldermanic consensus on zoning to encourage hotel/restaurant/retail development. No further auto repair/paint shops, auto parts stores, cash for gold stores, currency exchanges or pawn shops. There is a need for higher end fast-food restaurants such as: Jason's Deli - Panera Bread - Pompeii - Portillo's/Baranelli's - Silk Road - Soprafina - The Corner Bakery - Vie De France.

**Wards 13 – 14 – 22 – 23**

Replacement of broken sidewalks, curbs, and gutters.

**Ward 14 – E Side/47<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup>, 22 – W. Side Stevenson to 51<sup>st</sup>, 23 – Archer S. to 55<sup>th</sup>**

Ticketing property owners of vacant lots for failure to comply with city codes re: high weeds, trash and over grown shrubs.

**Ward 14 – E. Side 47<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup>, 22 W. & E. Side Stevenson to 47<sup>th</sup>, W. Side 47<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup>.**

Repair of broken/damaged center median planter boxes, specifically those from Archer Avenue north to the Stevenson Expressway.

**Wards 14 & 22 Stevenson to Archer.**

Decorative trash cans to be placed at all major intersections and bus tops

**Ward 14 – E. Side 47<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup>, 22 W. & E. Side Stevenson to 47<sup>th</sup>, W. Side 47<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup>**

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Install circular planter containers on east and west sidewalks from 55<sup>th</sup> street North to Stevenson

**Ward 14 – E. Side 47<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup>, 22 W. & E. Side Stevenson to 47<sup>th</sup>, W. Side 47<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> Archer to 55<sup>th</sup>**

Belt RR Bridge over Cicero at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street - sandblasted and protected with graffiti guard.

**Wards 14 & 23 & Congressman Lipinski**

Both the Metra/GMO and the BNSF RR bridges at Stevenson & Cicero - sandblasted and repainted.

**Ward 22 & Congressman Lipinski**

Fence off the underside areas (four) of the Stevenson Expressway bridges over Cicero Avenue and offer relocation of homeless to shelters.

**Ward 22**

Elimination of panhandlers, sellers, drummers and any other impediments to smooth traffic flow on Cicero Avenue at the Stevenson. These aforementioned people have been very problematic for all motorists, especially women who drive alone.

**Ward 22**

Elimination of recurrent incidents of prostitution with the establishment of an ongoing police tactical presence solely to deal with this issue.

**Wards 13 – 14 – 22 – 23 & Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson & 8<sup>th</sup> Commander Pontecore.**

***Near Term – Within Next 365 Days - Projects***

Departments of Planning and Economic Development to start aggressively marketing the Cicero Corridor and incentivizing businesses to build in the area.

**Wards 13 – 14 – 22 – 23**

City acquisition of all empty lots and installation of landscaping pending serious proposals for redevelopment. Use of eminent domain to seize empty lots and condemnation of derelict buildings. Committee to provide a list of addresses.

**Ward 14 – E Side/47<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup>, 22 – W. Side Stevenson to 51<sup>st</sup>, 23 – Archer S. to 55<sup>th</sup>**

Secure agreement with Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) to cease purchasing and banking land **east** Cicero Avenue. CHA purchases are removing prime parcels of land from active property tax rolls and future retail/use tax revenues.

**Ward 22**

Cleanup and improve landscaping of current grassy/tree areas along all four Stevenson Expressway ramps plus grassy knoll areas on both sides of Cicero from the Expressway south to 43<sup>rd</sup> St. and continue maintenance of same. These are very high profile ramps. Bring in Cook County SWAP participants for cleanups on a weekly basis.

**Ward 22 E. & W. Sides Stevenson to 43<sup>rd</sup> St.**

Eliminate CTA Bus Turn-around **at** Cicero/Archer and move terminus of 47<sup>th</sup> Street bus to the Midway Airport Transit Center (59<sup>th</sup> Street) – a convenient six blocks away. Current turn-around used solely by one route – 47<sup>th</sup> Street. Exiting busses tie up six lanes of Cicero traffic and west bound Archer traffic turning south. This is especially problematic during rush hours.

**Ward 23**

Collaboration with IDOT/Federal Highway Administration to erect a large green/white “Expressway/Interstate” overhead type sign for north bound traffic that clearly states “**I-55 Stevenson Expressway – One Mile. North – Chicago – Right lane; South - Springfield – Left lane**”. Sign to be erected in the 5000 or 5100 block of Cicero. Purpose: to eliminate congestion from cars stopping and jockeying for position to access Stevenson Expressway entry ramps. Current signage for Stevenson extremely inadequate.

**Wards 14 & 22 & Congressman Lipinski**

Replacement of 182 rusted and corroded street lights (55<sup>th</sup> Street north to the Stevenson) with decorative black metal street lights as used in other parts of the City.

**Wards 13 – 14 – 22 - 23**

Banners touting ALL Chicago cultural institutions, major events such as the Chicago Marathon – Taste of Chicago – Gospel Fest, etc. and neighborhood festivals to be installed on every street light. Make entire length of Cicero Avenue look festive and welcoming.

**Wards 13 – 14 – 22 - 23**

Replacement of rusted and corroded traffic signals at Cicero/55<sup>th</sup> Street, Archer Avenue, 50<sup>th</sup> Street, 47<sup>th</sup> Street and 43<sup>rd</sup> Street with decorative black metal fixtures.

**Ward 13 – Cicero/55<sup>th</sup>, Ward 14 & 23 – Cicero/Archer, Ward 14 & 22 – Cicero/47<sup>th</sup>, Ward 22 – Cicero/43<sup>rd</sup>.**

Intersections of Cicero/Archer, Cicero/47<sup>th</sup> and Cicero/43<sup>rd</sup> to be improved with faux cobblestone pedestrian crossings.

**Ward 14 & 23 – Cicero/Archer, Ward 14 & 22 – Cicero/47<sup>th</sup>, Ward 22 – Cicero/43<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Long Term – Within Next Two Years - Projects**

A grand decorative **“Welcome to Chicago”** sign (facing n-bound Cicero traffic) to be erected in the 5100 block of S. Cicero that can easily be seen from the Cicero/Archer intersection. Sign to span all six lanes of Cicero Avenue. Back side of sign facing s-bound Cicero traffic to read **“Thank You for Visiting Chicago. Please Come Back Soon”**. Decorative sign to include Chicago City flag and to be painted in City flag colors. Illumination of sign as done on downtown bridges spanning the Dan Ryan would be a plus.

**Wards 14 & 22**

Hotel/convention/business center for the entire NE parcel of land located at Cicero at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Borders of property are west – Cicero Avenue, north – Stevenson Expressway, east – Knox Avenue, and south – 43<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Ward 22**

Redevelopment of LeClaire Courts property – Big Box retail along Cicero Avenue.

**Ward 22**

**Gateway to Midway Committee Team Partners**

**UNITED BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF MIDWAY (UBAM)**

Anita M. Cummings – Executive Director

**Archer Heights Civic Association**

Thomas S. Baliga – President

**Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce**

Mary Ellen Brown – President

**Garfield Ridge Neighborhood Watch**

Al Cacciottolo – President & 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward Superintendent

**Greater Southwest Development Corporation**

Christine (Tina) James – Director

**Southwest Airlines**

Patty Greene – Mgr. Community Affairs & Grassroots

**The Weglarz Company**

Revised 10-25-17