

Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting #2: Review Alternatives

Overview

The second meeting of the Kedzie Avenue Study Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed the project background and goals for the Phase I Study of Corridor Improvements from Vollmer Road to 159th St. The CAC was reminded of their role and expectations as a sounding board and leader in the community, as well as a source of corridor-related information.

The meeting's goals were to review the initial alternatives, offer space for comments and questions, and inform the CAC of the upcoming public information meeting.

Quick Facts:

Topic

Initial Alternatives for the corridor

Date/Time

August 28, 2024 | 2-3:30 PM | Zoom

Attendees



11

CAC Members

9

Project Team Members

Organizations Represented

Homewood Flossmoor Park District, Village of Flossmoor, City of Markam, MWRD, Village of Homewood, Village of Hazelcrest, Village of Olympia Fields, SSMMA, South Suburban Hospital, Open Lands, Lime.

Topics covered included:

- Welcome & Project Background
- Recap of CAC meeting #1
- Review Public survey results
- Refresh on corridor existing conditions
- Initial alternatives
- CAC Input on Recommendations
- CAC Input on public information meeting
- Next Steps

Welcome, Introductions, & Project Background Review

Following a welcome from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH), CAC members were refamiliarized with the project team, project area, purpose, and timeline with the group.

- The project is led by CCDOH and its consultant team includes the lead consultant RINA, and subconsultants, MUSE Community + Design, 2iM Group, CERA Solutions, Quigg Engineering, TranSmart, and Wang Engineering.

- The CAC will meet throughout the project to advise on project needs. CAC members are the experts on and in their communities. Additionally, CAC members will provide guidance and support for issues within their area of expertise.
- The purpose of the project is to provide an improved transportation corridor along Kedzie Avenue
 - **Goals:** Improving safety and mobility for all users; Enhancing pedestrian and bicycle accommodations; Improving aging infrastructure; Accommodating projected year 2050 travel demands
- The project is in Phase I, which is the initial study that will inform the next phases and support funding opportunities.

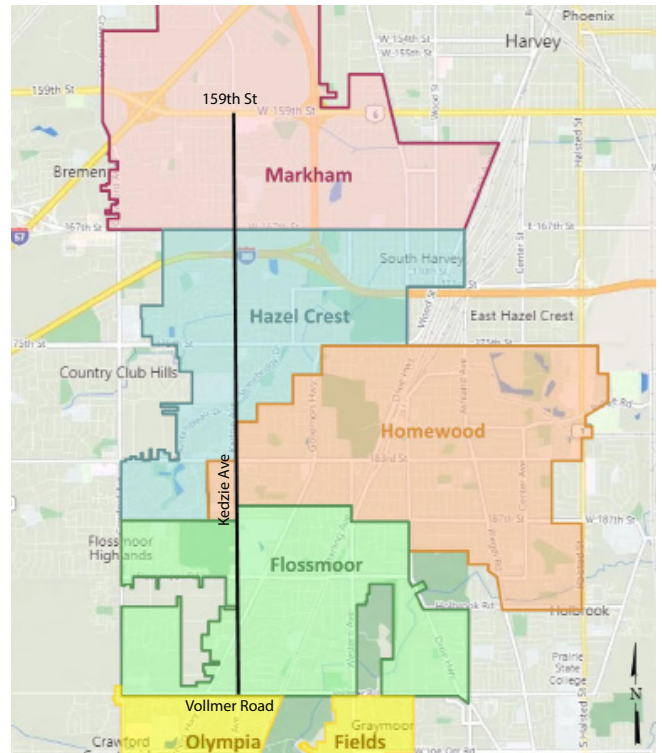


Figure 1: Project Area Map.

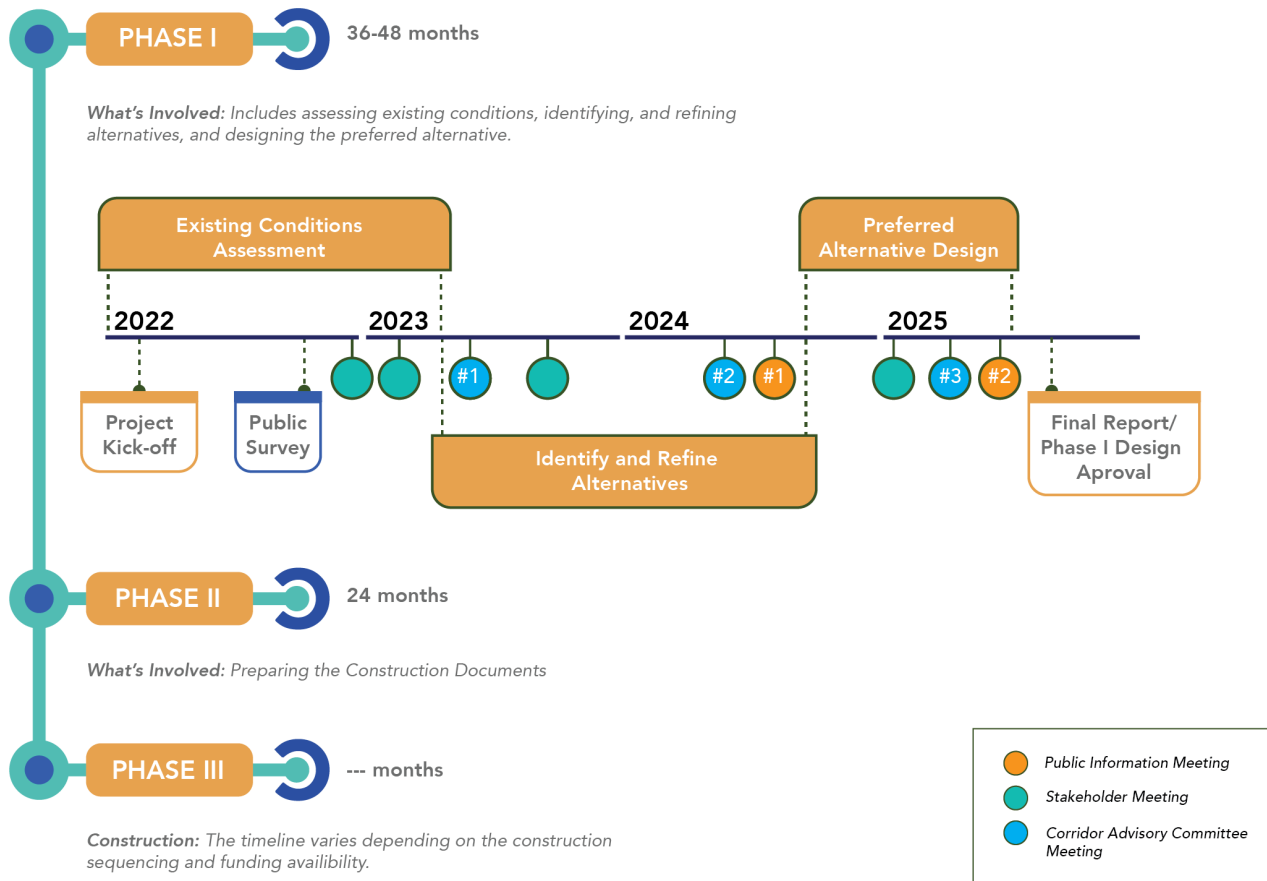


Figure 2: Project Timeline.

Meeting #1 Review

The first CAC meeting was held in April of 2023. With the timespan from the first meeting to the second, several members from the first have transitioned from their role. Therefore, the project team briefly reviewed the information presented in the first meeting. The content included: CAC role and meeting logistics, corridor existing conditions, and results from the public survey.

- Recap of meeting #1
- The Kedzie Avenue Corridor consists of a 4-lane roadway with a center median in various locations and turn lanes at intersections. The concrete pavement condition varies on both the road and the sidewalk. There is a Pace route in the corridor, along with multiple trails near the area, and the Metra Rock Island line crosses Kedzie. Existing traffic volumes range from 7,300 to 25,100 vehicles per day. CMAP 2050 projections estimate traffic volumes to be **10,700 to 31,100 vehicles per day**. Stormwater drainage along Kedzie Ave consists of underground storm sewers and large culverts. The corridor has flooding issues in various spots with one of the most notable on 150 south of Flossmoor Road.
- The project team conducted an interactive mapping survey from December 1st, 2022 to January 31st 2023. This survey received **66 responses** on the corridor's current conditions from users of Kedzie Avenue. The survey was advertised through social media, stakeholder emails, and the project newsletter. [A summary of the survey results is available on the project website](#). Respondents were asked to place a pin on a map to indicate the location of a transportation-related issue. As you can see from the resulting map, issues are distributed throughout the corridor, with the most pins placed at the intersection of **Kedzie Avenue and Flossmoor Road**. The categories of Pedestrian/Bicycle and Traffic/Roadway had the most responses. While only 24% of respondents left comments regarding safety, 39% of all respondents referenced **high vehicular speeds** in their comments, making it the most referenced issue along the corridor.

Opportunity for Questions

An opportunity was provided for the CAC members to ask questions.

No questions were raised at this time.

Initial Alternatives

1. Proposed roadway

The proposed improvement will have 2 lanes in each direction, a center bi-directional turn lane, continuous sidewalk on west side and continuous multi-use path on the east side of Kedzie.

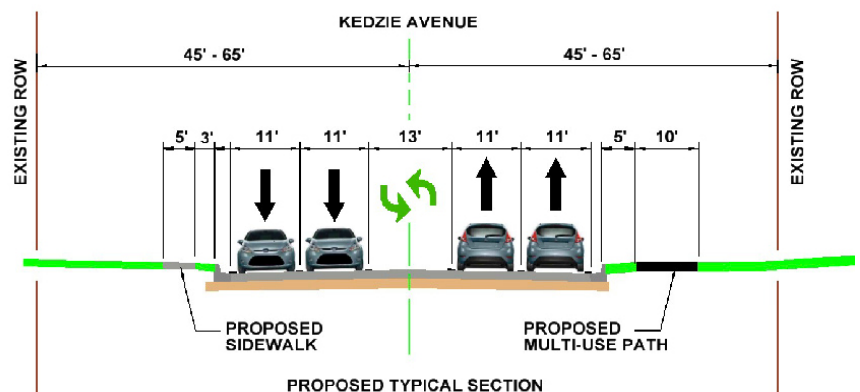


Figure 3: Proposed Roadway - Typical Cross Section.

2. Kedzie Ave and 159th

The intersection was analyzed, and the layout was optimized to improve safety and provide dedicated pedestrian and bicycle space. The County is coordinating with IDOT for formal approval of this intersection. There are property impacts at this intersection at all four corners of the intersection to accommodate the new right turn lanes and the sidewalk/multi-use path.

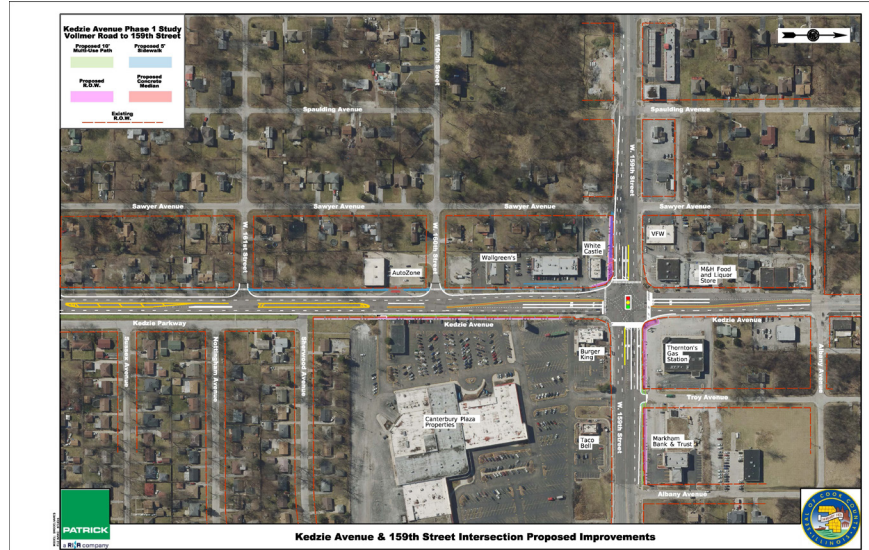


Figure 4: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & 159th St Intersection.

3. Kedzie Avenue and 167th Street Intersection and I-80 Westbound Entrance Ramp

New Eastbound right turn lane added on 167th Street. Parking lot and land impacts at all four corners. Optimized ramp designs for sidewalk crossings of ramps.

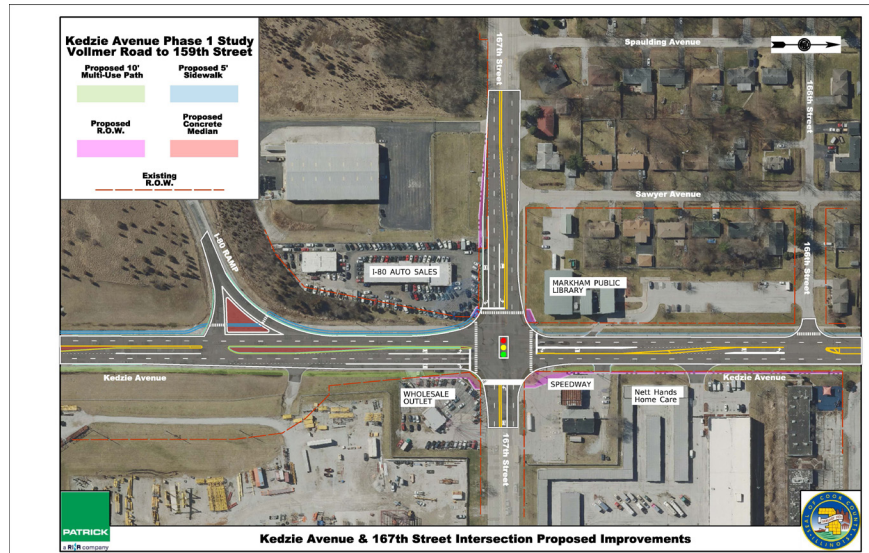


Figure 5: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & 167th St Intersection.

4. I-80 Eastbound Exit Ramp

No major geometric changes at this intersection. Traffic signal to remain and be upgraded. Optimized ramp designs for sidewalk crossings of ramps. A pedestrian crossing was added to allow access to bus stop south of this intersection.

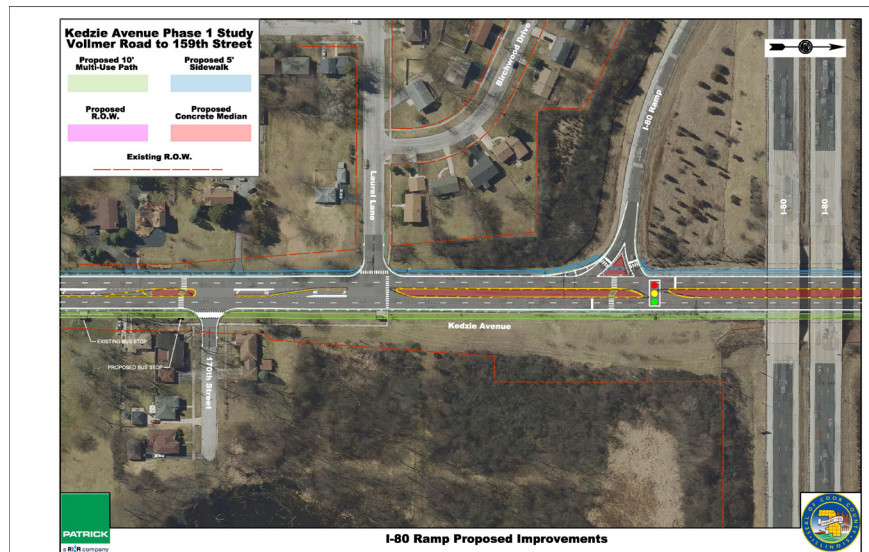


Figure 6: Initial Alternative - I-80 Ramp Exit Ramp.

5. Kedzie Avenue and 175th Street Intersection

No major geometric changes at this intersection. Minor improvements to corners and turning radii. Left turn lanes along Kedzie are being offset to improve site distance.

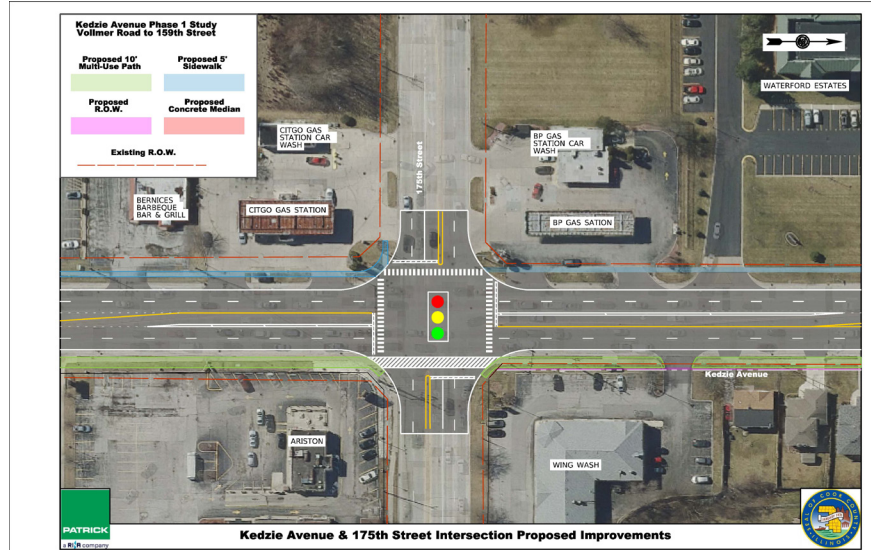


Figure 7: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & 175th St Intersection.

6. South Suburban Hospital Entrance

No major geometric changes at this intersection. There are no lane configuration changes. The signal is to remain and be upgraded.



Figure 8: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & Advocate South Suburban Hospital Entrance.

7. Kedzie Avenue and 183rd Street Intersection

No major geometric changes at this intersection.

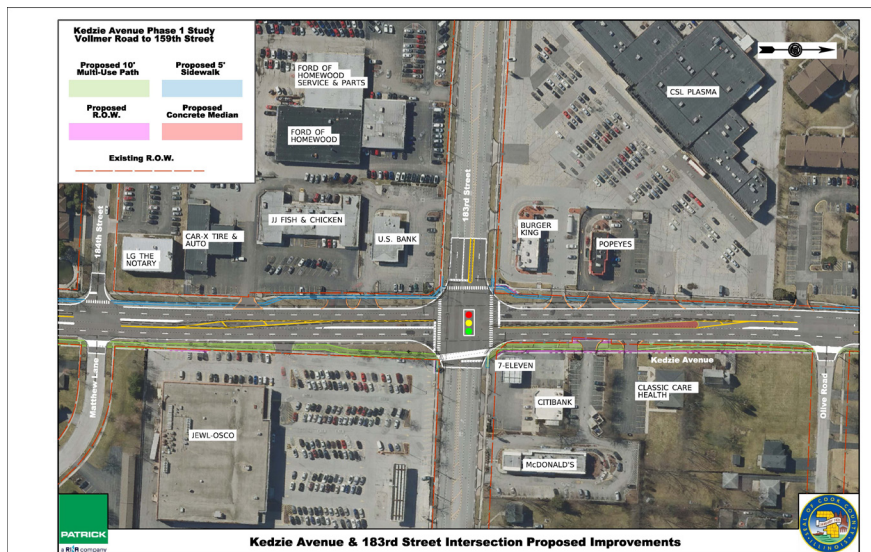


Figure 9: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & 183rd St Intersection.

8. Kedzie Avenue and Flossmoor Road Intersection

No major geometric changes at this intersection. The road will keep full access to the high school driveway to the north of the intersection. The project team is maintaining the sidewalk connection to the high school in the northeast corner of this intersection.

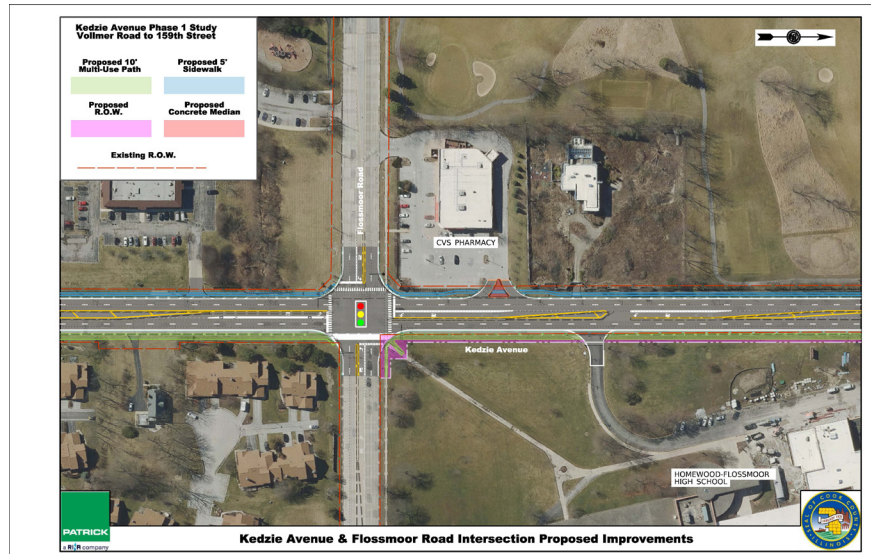


Figure 10: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & Flossmoor Rd Intersection.

9. Kedzie Avenue and Governors Highway Intersection

No major geometric changes at this intersection. No new lanes were added. The right turns were improved from northeast-bound to southbound and southwest-bound to northbound.

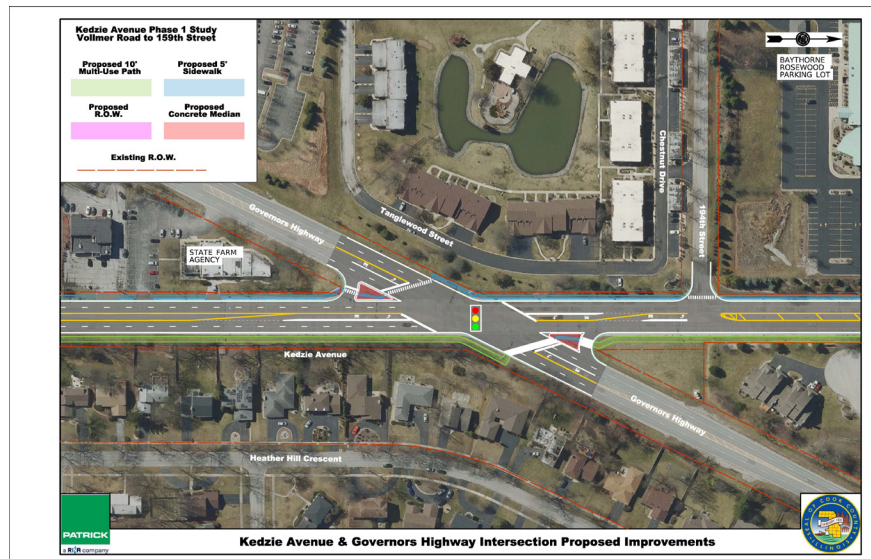


Figure 11: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & Governors Highway Intersection.

10. Kedzie Avenue and Vollmer Road Intersection

No major geometric changes at this intersection. Minimal improvement to the south leg of the intersection.

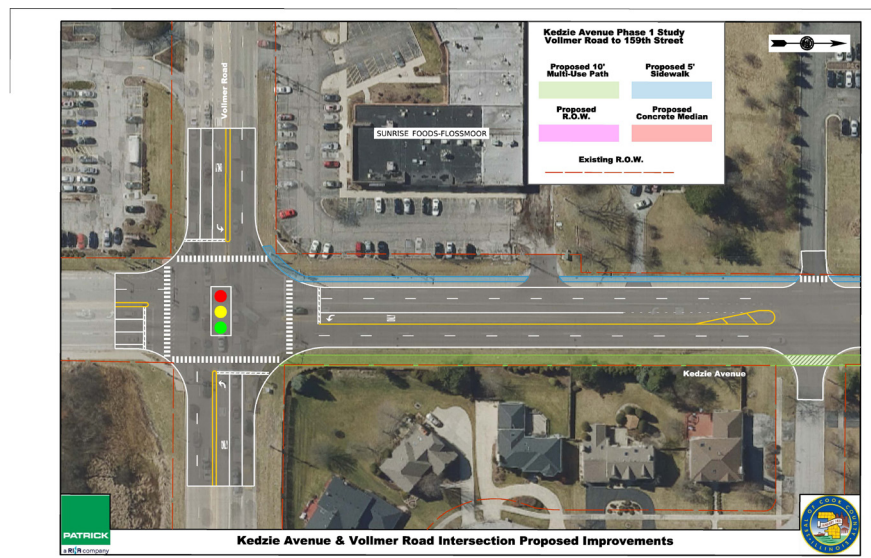


Figure 12: Initial Alternatives - Kedzie Ave & Vollmer Rd Intersection.

11. Kedzie Avenue and Vollmer Road Roundabout

The County was asked to investigate the option of installing a roundabout at the intersection of Kedzie Ave and Vollmer Road. Traffic analysis was performed to determine how traffic would perform with a roundabout design. A 2-lane roundabout would be needed for this option. This design would have substantial impacts to the commercial and residential properties at this intersection. Based on this, the County decided not to pursue this option.

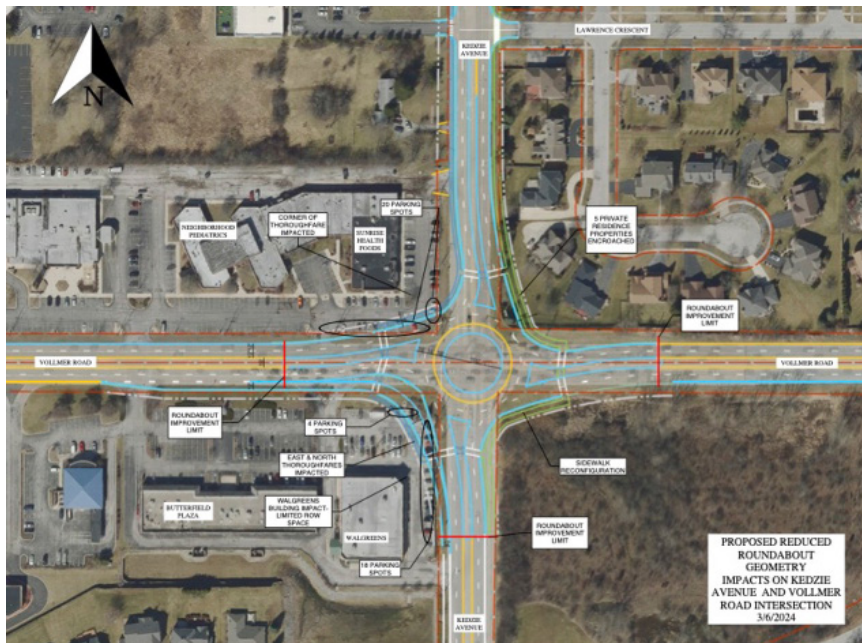


Figure 13: Initial Alternative - Kedzie Ave & Vollmer Rd Roundabout.

Opportunity for Questions

An opportunity was provided for the CAC members to ask questions and provide feedback about the initial alternatives.

Kedzie Avenue and 183rd

Question 1 – Will the walk signal be upgraded to ADA requirements?

- Yes, all signals will be up to date with ADA requirements and have pedestrian countdown timers.

Question 2 – Has anyone looked into a roundabout in this area?

- Other communities have asked the County to review roundabouts in their area. Roundabouts require a large amount of space and not all intersections will be able to accommodate that.

Question 3 – Drainage issues on Kedzie and 183rd in front of the Popeyes.

Question 4 – Drainage issues south of 183rd in the southbound lanes.

Kedzie and Flossmoor

Question 1 – With the addition of a multi-use trail, is there a way to add a crosswalk? High schoolers that golf at the school, play frogger across Kedzie to get to CVS and the golf course.

Question 2 – There is an exit on Viking rd. from the high school. Can a pedestrian refuge be added here?

- Project team would have to review geometries and possible move the driveway of the school.

CAC Input on Public Information Meeting

After hearing about the alternatives and having an opportunity to ask questions, the project team walked the CAC through the goals and plan for the public information meeting. The goals of the meeting are to inform the public on the initial alternatives and to provide an opportunity for the public to answer any questions and leave comments. The public information meeting is planned for fall 2024 and will be held on a weekday in a central area of the corridor

Interactive portion

The Project Team facilitated an interactive discussion about the public information meeting through Menti live polling. The questions helped frame the CAC involvement in the public meeting.

Questions:

- Who should we be sure is invited to the public information meeting? (Organizations, individuals, e.g)
- What does a successful public information meeting look like to you?
- What locations central to the corridor do you suggest for the meeting?
- How would you like to contribute to the public information session? (Multiple Choice)



Figure 14: Menti live polling results: Who should we be sure is invited to the public information meeting?

Who should we be sure is invited to the public information meeting? (Organizations, individuals, e.g)



Figure 15: Menti live polling results: Who should we be sure is invited to the public information meeting?

What does a successful public information meeting look like to you?

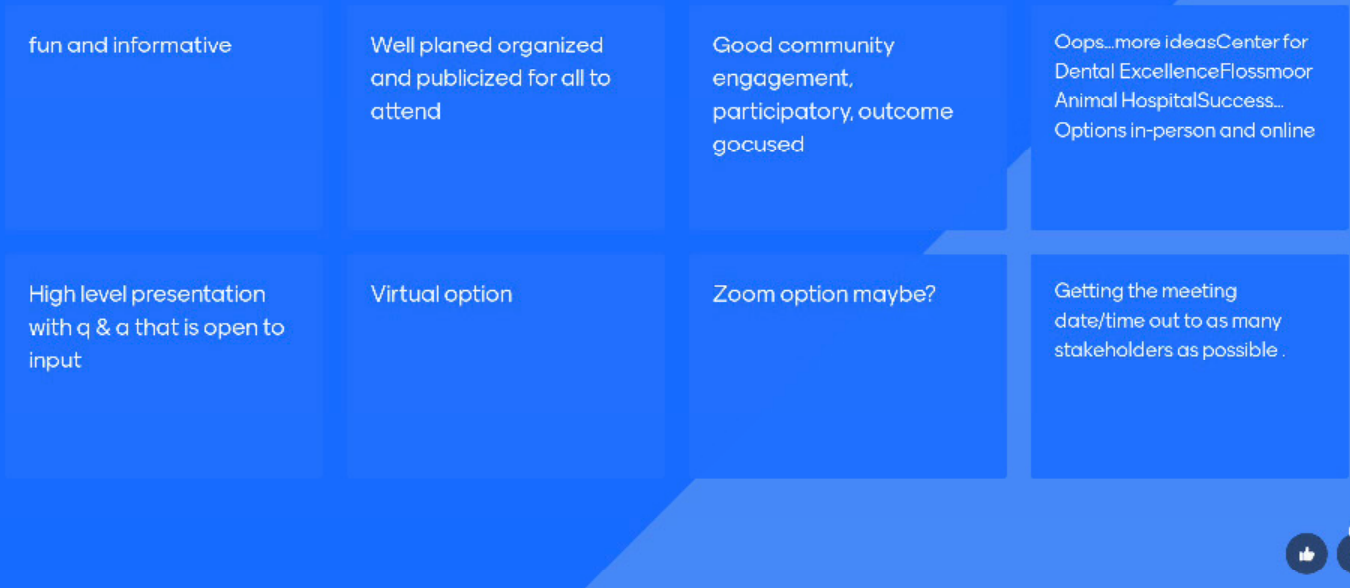


Figure 16: Menti live polling results: What does a successful public information meeting look like to you?

What locations central to the corridor do you suggest for the meeting?

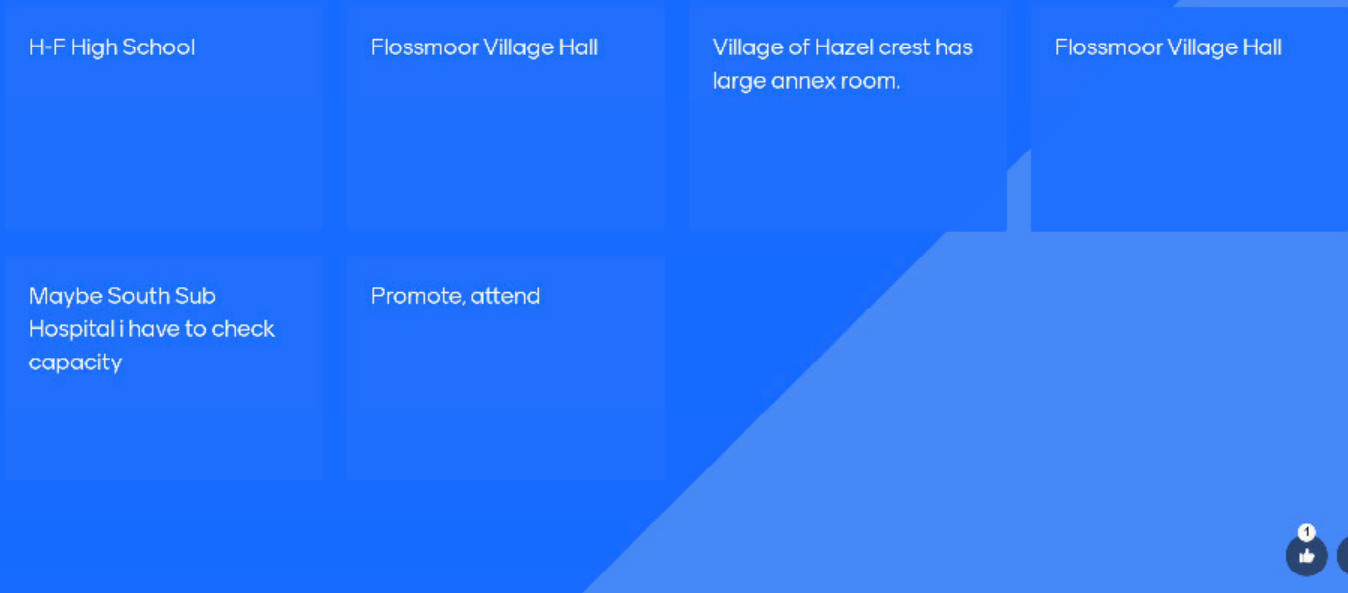


Figure 17: Menti live polling results: What locations central to the corridor do you suggest for the meeting?

How would you like to contribute to the public information session? Multiple Choice

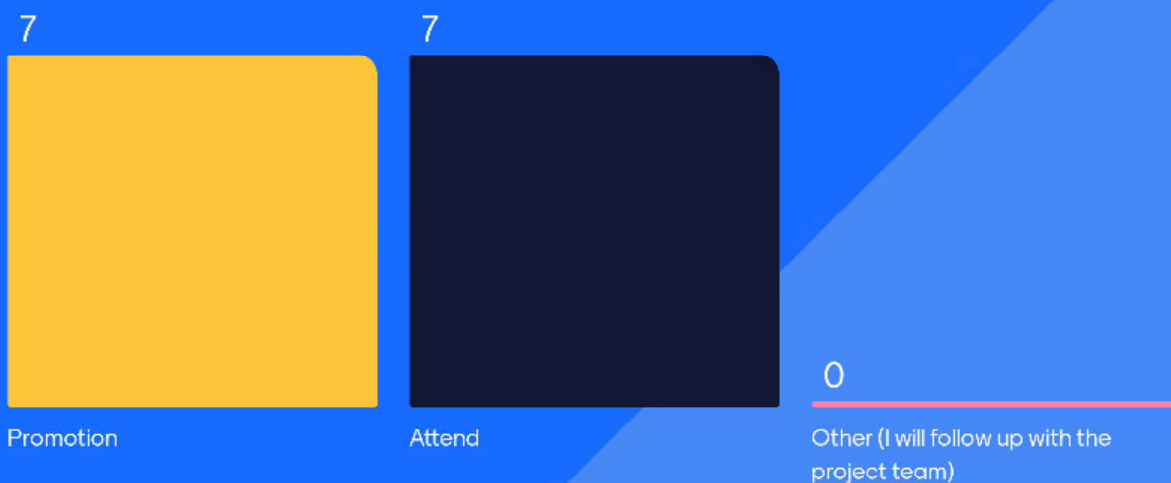


Figure 18: Menti live polling results: How would you like to contribute to the public information session?

Next Steps

The next step in the study phase is to plan and design the public information meeting. The meeting is planned for late fall in a central area of the corridor. The project team will canvas the area and send out promotional materials to community members and neighbors to ensure participation.

After Public Information Meeting #1, the CAC will reconvene to hear from the project team what the preferred alternative is.

Throughout the study process, information will be available on the project website at improvekedzieavenue.org.

What to expect for the rest of the project phase

- Newsletter #2 with information on the Public Meeting #1
- Public Meeting #1 will get public comment and feedback on alternatives and provide the Project Team with information about preferences and priorities
- CAC Meeting #3 to present preferred alternatives

