



## Part 1: Your Neighborhood

- What features/characteristics of your neighborhood are you most proud of?
- What three words best describe your neighborhood?
- Fill in the blank: My neighborhood would be better if...
- What community resources in your neighborhood are most important to you? Identify these on the map.
  - Schools
  - Parks/recreation areas
  - Religious institutions
  - Cultural or historic resources
  - Natural features such as ponds or gardens
  - Community centers
  - Grocery stores
  - Drug stores
  - Shops/restaurants
  - Hospitals/Health clinics
  - Police/fire stations
- What's missing from your neighborhood?
  - Short-term: what simple, low-cost changes could be done right now to improve your neighborhood?
  - Long-term: what long-term improvements should be made?
- On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you assess the following features of your neighborhood?
  - Overall visual appeal
  - Feeling of safety
  - Cleanliness/quality of maintenance
  - Comfortable places to sit
  - Places to socialize
  - Mix of stores and services
  - Economic vitality
  - Transportation facilities, including roads, transit, sidewalks, bike paths
  - Frequency of community events/activities
  - Active social/religious/community groups
  - Sense of pride and ownership



## **Part 2: Getting Around**

### ***A. Mapping Your Daily Journey:***

- Identify some of the routes you normally take to work/school and for regular errands (shopping, doctor appointments, etc).
  - What combination of transportation modes do you take to get there? (walk, bike, bus, el, car, Metra, Amtrak)
  - Do you feel you have reasonable options to travel a different way if conditions change (for instance, if the weather is bad, or if there are transit delays or unusual traffic)?

### ***B. Your Experience with the Existing Rail System***

Even if you don't utilize Amtrak or Metra service yourself, the existing rail infrastructure is a major presence in your community and may affect both your travel experience and overall quality of life.

- Consider the following ways that the existing rail network may influence your daily routine, and tell us about your experience with each.
  - Are you a rail passenger? How frequently do you ride Metra? Amtrak?
  - Do your usual driving, biking, and/or walking routes involve crossing over or under railroad tracks at one or more locations?
  - Can you see railroad infrastructure (tracks, viaducts, etc.) from your home or work?
  - Can you hear trains from your home or work?
  - Do you interact with the existing rail system in some other way?
- In general, what are the benefits of rail to your community?
- In general, what are the drawbacks of rail to your community?

### ***C. The Big Picture***

- What are the main transportation issues in your neighborhood? Think about all modes – walking, biking, driving, bus, rail.
- What one change would most improve your travel experience in your neighborhood?
- On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate the condition of other rail transportation facilities in your neighborhood? (rail viaducts, conditions along tracks)



### **Part 3: Summary**

- Review your group's answers to the previous two exercises and pick the three most revealing points you discussed. Prepare to share with the larger group.
- What other groups/individuals NOT present at today's meeting should be invited to participate in future Community Advisory Group meetings?
- What are the best media outlets and methods to communicate with members of the community?