

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

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## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Realizing the recommendations included in the Plan will require a broad range of inter-related implementation actions to address multi-modal access and circulation improvements, urban design enhancements, economic development and branding initiatives in a coordinated and focused manner. The **Implementation Strategy** developed for the 159th Street Corridor by the Steering Committee provides a “road map” that outlines initiatives to be undertaken either jointly or by individual municipalities along the Corridor, as appropriate, to enhance the function, appearance and market position of the 159th Street Corridor. Implementation efforts will focus on establishing the partnerships and mechanisms for cooperation which will be required to achieve the shared Vision for the 159th Street Corridor, creating a cohesive, vibrant Corridor that respects the character of each community while creating a singular Corridor identity.

The Corridor communities will need to coordinate their efforts closely with partner agencies that include the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA), Cook and Will County Highway Departments and Forest Preserve Districts, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Metra, Pace, The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation (CSEDC) and the Active Transportation Alliance.

The detailed Implementation Actions Matrix that follows organizes strategies in seven categories. A priority level and “champion” for each action have been indicated. The seven categories include the following:

- **Planning / Policy Initiatives:** These strategies were developed to facilitate coordinated implementation efforts at both the municipal and Corridor-wide scale. Initiatives include establishing a Task Force and a mechanism for shared funding and administration, undertaking selected sub-regional planning studies at key development opportunity sites, and updating municipal codes for consistency in landscaping and development standards.
- **Access and Circulation:** These strategies seek to provide enhanced access to and between activity nodes on and near 159th Street, and an enhanced ability to cross 159th Street safely. Key to this effort will be the need for Homer Glen and Orland Park to work closely with IDOT on the pending widening of the western portion of the Corridor to ensure community preferences and best practices in sustainability are reflected during design and construction. In the fully developed eastern portion of the Corridor, improvements will be more incremental in nature, and will include

### THE PROJECTS SELECTED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO ESTABLISH BOTH VISIBILITY FOR THE CORRIDOR AND MOMENTUM FOR ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDE:

- Installation of primary gateway treatments at each interchange, including signage and landscaping.
- Installation of secondary gateway treatments and wayfinding signage at each community’s key intersection.
- Working in close coordination with IDOT as Phase II plans are developed west of LaGrange Road to the I-355 interchange.

completing gaps in the existing mobility network, improving conditions at pedestrian crossing locations, and coordinating speed limits and signal timing.

- **Urban Design / Public Art:** These strategies seek to enhance community nodes and Corridor entry points, and create visual continuity along the Corridor. This will be achieved through a combination of primary and secondary gateway treatments, median installation in select locations, overpass lighting and railing improvements at I-57, and both temporary and permanent installations of public art.
- **Landscape / Environment:** These strategies seek to extend the “green” character of the Corridor beyond the existing forest preserve and open space areas, pulling additional landscape elements into commercial node areas to soften their appearance. Stormwater best management practices should be employed where opportunities arise, along with installation of a consistent palette of street trees, parkway plantings, parking lot and residential buffer landscaping, and median treatments where space and sight lines permit.
- **Lighting / Utilities / Maintenance:** These strategies seek to coordinate the incremental installation of consistent and dark sky compliant street lighting along the Corridor, including pedestrian scale lighting at commercial nodes and bus stops. Overhead utility burial and/or relocation is a long term goal to be pursued, along with consistent maintenance standards along the Corridor.

- Wayfinding / Navigability:** These strategies seek to coordinate a Corridor-wide palette of gateway elements, wayfinding signage, information kiosks, and a pole-mounted signage system with a coordinated seasonal rotation of Corridor-logo banners. For example, communities would work with Metra and IDOT to develop and implement wayfinding signage to direct commuters to the stations within the corridor in coordination with other wayfinding signage.
- Economic Development / Marketing / Branding:** These strategies include implementing a Corridor logo/motif consistently across physical, printed and digital marketing elements, updating municipal websites, establishing an email marketing campaign for Corridor businesses and events, coordinating events and public art programs, and forming an automobile merchants association.

Key to the success of the 159th Street Corridor Plan will be the commitment of each participating community to contribute time and effort to maintaining an active Task Force, engage in shared efforts to secure and administer funds for Corridor improvements, work cooperatively with external partners, and balance efforts between pursuing high priority “quick win” strategies and laying an effective groundwork for both medium priority and ongoing initiatives. The end result will be a well-functioning, attractive and vibrant 159th Street Corridor that benefits all participating communities.

**IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

Planning / Policy Initiatives							
Implementation Action		Priority			Champion	Partners	Comments / References
		High	Medium	Ongoing			
1	Establish 159th Street Corridor Task Force				SSMMA	Participating municipalities	To coordinate and monitor ongoing implementation efforts, and facilitate joint applications for external funding support.
2	Establish a mechanism for shared funding applications and administration				Municipalities	SSMMA, CSEDC, local bank(s)	
3	Undertake sub-regional planning studies to coordinate land use, development standards and transit access at key nodes  <i>159th between Cedar and Gougar Roads</i> <i>159th and Harlem</i>  <i>Cook County Hospital property</i>				Homer Glen Orland Park, Tinley Park Oak Forest, Markham	Pace, IDOT	To facilitate effective land use strategies and shared efforts to attract mutually beneficial development opportunities.
4	Revise and coordinate landscaping and development standards				Planning staff	Plan Commissioners	To facilitate cross-access easements (per Improvement Standards page IS-13), limited curb cuts, and consistency in design quality and landscaping treatments.
5	Revise and coordinate signage standards				Planning staff	Plan Commissioners	To facilitate coordinated and consolidated signage solutions, per Improvement Standards page IS-17.
6	Create a corridor-wide facade/signage/landscaping improvement grant program				Municipalities	SSMMA, CSEDC, local bank(s), property owners	To facilitate consistent upgrades by private sector stakeholders.
7	Monitor and maintain consistent crash data				Municipalities	Active Trans Alliance	To facilitate funding applications for specific locations or corridor-wide improvements.

## IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS CONTINUED

Access / Circulation							
Implementation Action		Priority			Champion	Partners	Comments / References
		High	Medium	Ongoing			
1	Work in close coordination with IDOT to ensure that Phase II design from I-355 to LaGrange Road reflects appropriate ROW width, access controls, pedestrian and bicycle mobility, transit design, landscaping, and sustainable design and construction practices				Homer Glen	Orland Park, IDOT, SSMMA, Pace	
2	Maintain a complete ADA-compliant sidewalk network along 159th Street and at all intersecting streets				Municipalities	IDOT, SSMMA, property owners	Utilize easements on private property where available ROW is insufficient.
3	Coordinate driveway locations to minimize and consolidate curb cuts along 159th Street				Municipalities	IDOT	IDOT to approve driveway permits only after municipality review and approval of proposed site plan.
4	Install high visibility crosswalk markings and "No right on red" signage				Municipalities	IDOT	At all intersections per Improvement Standards pages IS-30 to IS-35.
5	Install enhanced crosswalk markings/signage near schools and civic destinations				Municipalities	IDOT	At all appropriate intersections, per Intersection Standards page IS-28.
6	Install pedestrian priority paving across driveway entrances				Municipalities	IDOT, property owners	Per Improvement Standards page IS-12, providing a split entry/exit with median where space permits.
7	Complete gaps in sidewalk system connections to FPD trailheads				Active Transportation Alliance	Municipalities, CCFPD, IDOT	Minor adjustments to significantly enhance connectivity and access to a regional amenity.
8	Complete gaps in bicycle path network to FPD trailheads				Active Transportation Alliance	Municipalities, CCFPD, IDOT	Minor adjustments to significantly enhance connectivity and access to a regional amenity.
9	Install bus stop improvements, in coordination with TSP upgrades and development projects				Pace	Municipalities, IDOT	Per Improvement Standards page IS-14.
10	Install pedestrian push buttons and countdown signals				Municipalities	IDOT	At all signalized intersections, Types 1 to 3 (Improvement Standards pages IS-30 to IS-32); provide for a button-actuated ped-only period during cycle.
11	Install pedestrian refuge islands				Municipalities	IDOT	At all intersections, Types 1 to 6 (Improvement Standards pages IS-30 to IS-35); balance median and parkway widths within available ROW in existing areas to optimize pedestrian comfort.
12	Coordinate speed limits throughout the Corridor				Municipalities	IDOT, SSMMA, SW Conf of Mayors	Engineering study required; solutions consistent with desired use patterns in each municipality.
13	Coordinate signal timing throughout the Corridor				Municipalities	IDOT, Pace, SSMMA, SW Conf of Mayors	Engineering study required; implement in conjunction with Traffic Signal Priority (TSP) upgrades.
14	Provide secure bicycle parking throughout the Corridor				Municipalities	Active Transportation Alliance, property owners	Per Improvement Standards page IS-25.
15	Install a multi-use path on one side of 159th				Municipalities	IDOT	At sections still pending widening, and where space permits in eastern portion of Corridor.
16	Consider access controls at minor intersections and mid-block private driveways				Municipalities	IDOT	Engineering study required; solutions include right-in right-out access only, emergency access only, etc.
17	Improve pedestrian access across I-57 overpass				Markham	IDOT, Active Transportation Alliance	Per Focus Area page FA-17.

<b>Urban Design / Public Art</b>							
<b>Implementation Action</b>		<b>Priority</b>			<b>Champion</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Comments / References</b>
		<i>High</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>			
1	Install municipal identity markers at municipal boundaries				Municipalities	IDOT, property owners	Per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11, and page IS-16.
2	Install primary gateway treatments at interchanges				Municipalities	IDOT, SSMA	To establish a corridor-wide visual identity, per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11, and page IS-16, and Focus Area pages FA-16 to FA-23.
3	Install secondary gateway treatments at each community gateway location				Municipalities	IDOT, property owners	To establish each community's visual identity, per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11, and page IS-16.
4	Auto row median landscape and sculpture installation				Orland Park, Tinley Park	IDOT, auto dealerships	Between 84th and 86th Avenues, per Focus Area pages FA-8 and FA-9.
5	Incorporate overpass railing/lighting improvements at I-57				Markham	IDOT, Active Transportation Alliance	Per Focus Area page FA-17.
6	Install public art as opportunities arise, whether temporary or permanent				Municipalities	Property owners	Per Improvement Standards page IS-26.

<b>Landscape / Environment</b>							
<b>Implementation Action</b>		<b>Priority</b>			<b>Champion</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Comments / References</b>
		<i>High</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>			
1	Install street trees as opportunities arise.				Municipalities	IDOT	Fill existing gaps at eastern portion, develop consistent ROW treatment at western portion.
2	Install consistent native parkway and buffer plantings				Municipalities	IDOT	Utilize a common palette and seasonal planting schedule.
3	Install a consistent palette of street furniture, utilizing the Corridor logo				Municipalities	IDOT	Per Improvement Standards page IS-25.
4	Encourage and incorporate stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in parkways and at adjacent development sites				Municipalities	IDOT, property owners	Per Improvement Standards pages IS-23 and IS-24.
5	Install landscaped barrier medians where space permits				Municipalities	IDOT	Engineering study required; per Improvement Standards pages IS-20 to IS-24.
6	Install landscaped parkways between sidewalk and curb				Municipalities	IDOT	Engineering study required; per Improvement Standards pages IS-20 to IS-24.
7	Install a landscape and/or fence buffer at residential uses				Municipalities	IDOT, property owners	Per Character District page CD-14, and Improvement Standards page IS-23.

## IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS CONTINUED

Lighting / Utilities / Maintenance							
Implementation Action		Priority			Champion	Partners	Comments / References
		High	Medium	Ongoing			
1	Install consistent streetlighting, including pedestrian level lighting at bus stops and high traffic areas				Municipalities	IDOT	Per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11 and pages IS-18 and IS-19.
2	Bury or relocate overhead utilities along the Corridor				Municipalities	IDOT, ComEd, other utilities	Engineering study and significant coordination required.
3	Develop and utilize common maintenance standards (irrigation, snow removal)				Municipalities	IDOT	
4	Engage in consistent maintenance of public open spaces				Municipalities	CCFPD, community volunteers	

Wayfinding / Navigability							
Implementation Action		Priority			Champion	Partners	Comments / References
		High	Medium	Ongoing			
1	Implement a corridor-wide pole-mounted banner system, utilizing the Corridor logo and a seasonal rotation				Municipalities	Chamber, IDOT, businesses	Per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11, and pages IS-18, IS-19 and IS-25.
2	Develop and implement a distinct system of wayfinding signage to direct drivers to key regional attractions and amenities				Municipalities	IDOT, CSEDC	Per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11, and page IS-17.
3	Develop and implement a system of trailhead information kiosks, coordinated with the corridor-wide wayfinding system				Municipalities	IDOT, Cook County Forest Preserve	Per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11, and page IS-17.
4	Work with Metra and IDOT to develop and implement wayfinding signage to direct commuters to stations, in coordination with other wayfinding signage				Municipalities	Metra, IDOT, CSEDC	Per Improvement Standards key maps IS-4 to IS-11, and page IS-17.

<b>Economic Development / Marketing / Branding</b>							
<b>Implementation Action</b>		<b>Priority</b>			<b>Champion</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Comments / References</b>
		<i>High</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>			
1	Develop and implement a 159th Street Corridor logo/motif, used consistently in urban design improvements, and in on-line and printed materials				Municipalities	CSEDC	Per Improvement Standards page IS-25.
2	Update municipal websites				Municipalities		Per checklist on Marketing the Corridor page MC-5.
3	Provide links to CSEDC on municipal websites				Municipalities	CSEDC	
4	Create an e-mail marketing campaign to attract new businesses				Municipalities	Chamber, CSEDC	
5	Create an e-mail marketing campaign to attract shoppers and diners				Municipalities	Businesses, CSEDC	Maintain both a local and a regional focus.
6	Organize and promote community events and public art programs focused on the Corridor				Municipalities	Chamber, businesses, local artists, charitable foundations	Market as corridor-wide events that cross municipal boundaries; achieve both a business and charitable benefit if temporary art installations are auctioned.
7	Revise sign codes to provide consistent "For Sale/Lease" standards and encourage contact with municipality Economic Development staff				Municipalities	Brokers, property owners	
8	Form an automobile merchants association				Municipalities, auto dealers	CSEDC, Chamber	