



PLAN COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022 - 6:00 PM
WINNETKA VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 510 GREEN BAY ROAD

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.
2. Public Comment.
3. Community Development Report.
4. **Comprehensive Plan Visioning Work:** Discussion of goals and initiatives for the following pillars:
(a) Educational Excellence; (b) Mobility and Accessibility.
5. Other Business
 - a. June Special Meeting Quorum Check – Monday, June 6, **or** Wednesday, June 8, 2022, Comprehensive Plan Visioning Work: Review all Pillars and Prepare for Presentation to Council.
 - b. Potential Special Joint Meeting with Village Council Quorum Check - June 21, 2022.
6. Adjournment.

Note: Public comment is permitted on all agenda items at the meeting. If you wish to provide testimony or comments prior to the meeting, you may provide them one of two ways: (1) by sending an email to planning@winnetka.org; or by sending a letter to Community Development, Village of Winnetka, 510 Green Bay Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093. All agenda materials are available at www.villageofwinnetka.org/agendacenter.

NOTICE

The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities contact the Village ADA Coordinator at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, (Telephone (847) 716-3543; T.D.D. (847) 501-6041).



MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF WINNETKA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: PLAN COMMISSION
FROM: DAVID SCHOON, DIRECTOR
DATE: MAY 19, 2022
SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - PILLARS 5 & 8 GOALS & INITIATIVES

At the May 25, 2022, Plan Commission regular meeting, The Lakota Group and staff will once again continue to work with the Commission on developing vision statements, goals, and initiatives for each of the community pillars. **Attachment A** contains the agenda The Lakota Group plans to use to guide the discussion during this item on your meeting agenda.

At the May 25 meeting, the Commission will discuss the following pillars:

- **Initial Discussion**
 - Pillar 5 - Educational Excellence
 - Pillar 8 - Mobility and Accessibility

Attachment B contains the draft vision statements, goals, and initiatives for each of these pillars. As we previously stated these are working documents, and we look forward to receiving your comments and thoughts.

At future meetings, the Commission is currently scheduled to further consider the community pillars as well as present a vision for the community's future to the Village Council:

- **June 6 or 8 Special Meeting**
 - **Review Pillar Statements, Goals, and Initiatives for each of the 10 Pillars**
Prepare for presentation to Council
- **June 21 Meeting with Council**
 - Present Community Vision – Pillar Statements, Goals, and Initiatives for each pillar.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Agenda for the Comprehensive Plan Visioning Work Agenda Items

Attachment B: Draft Vision Statements, Goals, and Initiatives for the following Pillars: Educational Excellence as well as Mobility and Accessibility.

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WINNETKA FUTURES 2040 PLAN

AGENDA: Visioning Working Session

DATE: May 25, 2022
LOCATION: Winnetka Village Hall

1. Pillar Five: Educational Excellence
 - a. Vision Statement
 - b. Goals
 - c. Draft Initiatives

2. Pillar Eight: Mobility and Accessibility
 - a. Vision Statement
 - b. Goals
 - c. Draft Initiatives

3. Discussion of Next Steps & Schedule for Upcoming Discussions

May 25, 2022

To: Winnetka Team

Fr: Lakota Team

RE: Pillar 5 – Educational Excellence

Winnetka Comp Plan – *Winnetka Futures 2040 – Our Heritage Forward*

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Pillar 5: Educational Excellence

“A community with a strong heritage rooted in education that honors the whole child, fosters creativity and confidence, inspires lifelong learning, and develops civic responsibility.”

GOAL 1: Recognizing that educational excellence is one of the primary reasons residents choose Winnetka, the Village will support the community’s public school districts, private schools, and other educational organizations by fostering a culture of student engagement, support, and lifelong learning.

Initiatives

- a) Consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to provide additional clarity regarding pre-kindergarten and daycare institutions to better support the establishment and operation of early childhood education in the Village. This could include making them permitted uses instead of special uses.
- b) Help foster civic responsibility among students by exploring with local schools the creation of a program to educate students regarding local government, such as partnering with local schools to develop a local government curriculum by which Village staff members would visit classrooms to talk about various areas of local government or establish a one day program were students of a certain grade visit Village facilities to learn about local government.
- c) Communicate the importance of Winnetka’s heritage of educational excellence in Village publications.

GOAL 2: The Village will seek to collaborate with education-focused organizations to find synergies and efficiencies by sharing facilities, resources, and other assets.

Initiatives

- a) Collaborate when possible with public school districts to find synergies and cost-savings as well as identify grants and other fundings sources.
- b) Study the possibility of creating specific zoning for institutional uses to reduce procedural burdens caused by school facilities needing to comply with zoning standards designed for single-family homes.
- c) As part of the Village’s efforts to encourage community involvement, collaborate with the schools on ways seniors and other non-parents could help meet the need for school volunteers.

GOAL 3: The Village will create a child-friendly environment that supports safety and independence.

Initiatives

- a) Encourage student independence and physical activity by providing safe, attractive, and welcoming pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit access to schools and throughout the village.
- b) The Village could foster learning, creative problem-solving, and environmental awareness through such as educational interpretive signs and exhibits, interactive public art, or technology-enhanced educational information in the public realm, such as virtual tours.

May 25, 2022

To: Winnetka Team

Fr: Lakota Team

RE: Pillar 8 – Mobility & Accessibility

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Pillar 8: Mobility & Accessibility

“A progressive community with forethought in developing a safe and efficient local and regional mobility connectedness for all through public transportation, regional trails and pedestrian and bike friendly neighborhood street networks.”

GOAL 1: The Village will work to redefine Green Bay Road as an attractive, safe, walkable, and bikeable corridor through the community and connecting the three business districts as well as institutions such as New Trier High School and North Shore Country Day School.

Initiatives

- a) Conduct a corridor study with a traffic analysis to examine ways to enhance the visual character, walkability, and safety of Green Bay Road to support the full range of users including, walkers, bicyclists and transit riders and the variable land uses along the corridor.
- b) Coordinate with IDOT to discuss the community vision for Green Bay Road and determine the feasibility of a streetscape or corridor improvement project. This process can determine the need for a jurisdictional transfer, based on needs and available resources for implementation.
- c) Prioritize bus stop amenities, including shelters, benches, real-time bus arrival information, and bike parking along Green Bay Road to improve access to local businesses and facilitate transit use.

GOAL 2: The Village will improve access to and from the Green Bay Trail to enhance this regional asset as a form of recreation and non-motorized transportation for north-south trips through the Village.

Initiatives

- a) To promote additional usage and recognition of the Green Bay Trail, add directional wayfinding signs identifying entry points to the Trail from adjacent commercial districts, schools, parks, institutional buildings, and designated bike routes as well as identifying to users on the trail community assets along the trail route such as restaurants and coffee shops, as well as institutions such as schools, library and Village Hall.

- b) Upgrade access points to meet ADA standards to ensure access is available to all users, including those with limited mobility, and when necessary, coordinate those improvements with Metra and the Union Pacific Railroad.
- c) Continue to provide bike parking throughout the business districts to invite and encourage trail users to access local businesses.
- d) Consider retrofitting existing access stairs with a bike ramp to increase access points for cyclists.

GOAL 3: The Village will enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, safety, and comfort throughout Winnetka with a focus on east-west bicycle routes and pedestrian connections to key destinations.

- a) As identified in the Quality Livable Neighborhood pillar, establish a sidewalk infill program that prioritizes sidewalk connections along school routes, to/from transit stops, and to/from commercial districts.
- b) Designate school walking and biking routes for each school and partner with relevant school organizations to adopt the US Department of Transportation's *Safe Routes to School* program.
- c) Develop a policy to mark high-visibility crossings in key locations, including those adjacent to schools and along school walking routes, at transit stops, throughout the business districts, park access points, and other prominent destinations.
- d) Identify east-west family-friendly bike routes and determine the appropriate design to encourage bicycle use while encouraging slow vehicle speeds to maintain a comfortable and safe environment for bicyclists of all ages and abilities.
- e) As identified in the *Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles* pillar, cooperate with the Village of Northfield and Forest Preserve District of Cook County to enhance pedestrian and bicycle routes to and through the Forest Preserve District as an enhanced east-west connection between the two communities, and as an effort to greater capitalize on this regional recreational asset.
- f) Identify preferred routes for on-street bicycle travel throughout the Village and designate the routes through signs and markings. Reconsider existing restrictions to bicycle travel on local streets and remove signs where possible to increase the viability of using bikes to travel through the Village.
- g) Develop an ADA Transition Plan to bring infrastructure in public rights-of-way into full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This supports users of all ages and ranges of mobility by upgrading transportation infrastructure, particularly the pedestrian realm.

Goal 4: The Village will continue to support transit service quality and encourage increased ridership.

- a) Improve the experience of accessing Metra by upgrading and concentrating amenities at the different stations, such as upgraded and sheltered bicycle parking.
- b) Recognizing the role that transit plays in achieving larger community goals like health, equity, and sustainability, ensure zoning regulations support and encourage transit-oriented development patterns around transit corridors and nodes that generate frequent pedestrian traffic at various times of the day to provide mutual benefit for local transit users, business owners, and Pace and Metra service.
- c) Coordinate with Pace to develop a plan to establish basic amenities at all bus stops throughout the Village, including a concrete waiting pad at a minimum and appropriate roadway crossing infrastructure. Determine additional amenities based on ridership and the profile of riders accessing each stop.

Goal 5: The Village will manage its parking assets to support the success of its business districts while balancing parking location and supply with the needs of the distinguished walkable and transit-oriented character that is uniquely Winnetka.

- a) Continue to prioritize walking and biking as viable and attractive options for getting to each business district so as to reduce demand for parking. That can be achieved through streetscape improvements, intersection crossing enhancements, more bike parking, and improved connections to the Green Bay Trail.
- b) Manage existing parking resources efficiently by simplifying usability by providing wayfinding systems to make it more convenient to find parking, simplify parking regulations, and improve regulatory signage.
- c) Continue the Village policy of providing the bulk of customer and employee parking spaces in each business district to maintain a consistent shared pool of publicly available parking. Regularly conduct parking studies to evaluate utilization of public parking facilities to determine if the parking supply is adequate for various users (customers, employees, commuters, and district residents).
- d) Review and make any necessary adjustments to the Village's parking requirements for commercial and multi-family residential uses. Consider establishing an off-street parking maximum ordinance, as well as minimum bicycle parking requirements, particularly within the business districts adjacent to transit.

Goal 6: The Village will support the progress of transportation through the exploration of new mobility services in the Village.

- a) Anticipate increased demand for electric vehicle charging and plan to increase the number of charging stations in public parking lots and to encourage private development to include

charging facilities in new off-street parking areas.

- b) Through a review of peer cities, explore additional sustainable transportation policy options related to electric vehicles, electric golf carts, and electric-assist bicycles and scooters (e-bikes and e-scooters). Study the viability of bikeshare as a way to expand Green Bay Trail access in partnership with other communities along the corridor.