



For Immediate Release: 11.07.03

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Citizen Input Sought for Cap the Ike Feasibility Study

With public input expected to lay the cornerstone for a study to examine the feasibility of covering the Interstate 290 through Oak Park, residents and business owners are encouraged to participate in the first community outreach event scheduled for 7 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 20, in Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

The workshop will allow citizens to communicate their thoughts, concerns, hopes and aspirations concerning the possible capping of the Eisenhower Expressway. Input from participants will become the foundation as the Village begins to assess the existing conditions, opportunities and constraints related to an Ike Cap.

Over the next several months the Village, through its team of contracted engineering and planning experts, will conduct interviews with key decision makers and begin working with a Cap the Ike Study Stakeholder Advisory Committee comprised of Village residents and business owners appointed by the Village Board, along with representatives other institutional stakeholders. Activities also will include determining any technical and engineering limitations to a cap in Oak Park before concepts are developed, and inventorying and assessing existing conditions such as land-use, market impacts and traffic.

In addition, a web site devoted to the Cap the Ike Study is being developed to allow residents to track the progress of the study. Residents also will be able to use the web site to review interview and workshop results, and provide feedback on preliminary design concepts. The web site will include a calendar of events for scheduled meetings and workshops as well.

This study, expected to take about a year to complete, is funded by a \$225,000 Illinois Tomorrow grant awarded by the state and a \$25,000 Village match.

For any questions or comments related to the *Cap the Ike Study*, please contact Pete Dame, Assistant to the Village Manager (708.358.5778) or send an email to CapTheIke@oak-park.us.

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