



**For Immediate Release:** 12.01.05

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### **First Madison Street Corridor Public Planning Forum Scheduled**

The first in a series of public forums to gather community input to help create a plan for the future redevelopment of the Madison Street Corridor from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., Dec. 7, in the Medical Arts Building gymnasium at Rush-Oak Park Hospital, 500 S. Maple Ave.

All area property owners, business owners and residents are urged to participate in this initial discussion of the assets and opportunities along the vital east-west Madison Street Corridor, the first step toward forging guidelines for its future redevelopment and growth.

"This forum is an opportunity for all stakeholders to have a voice and play an active role in a vital planning process," said Village Planner Craig Failor, who added that the forum should be a fun and entertaining experience.

"The new plan will not only help guide the future growth, development and redevelopment of the corridor, but also will spell out how the public would like to see this area improved," he said. "Public participation in the creation of the plan will help decision makers articulate a community vision for how best to improve the quality of life for area residents, while also improving the business climate and general aesthetics of the corridor."

Early community input is extremely important, Failor said, to ensure that the Madison Street Corridor plan reflects the collective vision, goals and values of the area's residents and business operators.

The project, which is expected to take about six months, will be led by Wisconsin-based Vandewalle & Associates, which was selected through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued in September and after presentations by the top three firms to the Village Board at a study session in October.

A steering committee has been selected to work closely with the consultant throughout the process. Committee members include citizen representatives from several Village commissions, including the Historic Preservation Commission, Plan Commission, Community Design Commission, Environmental & Energy Advisory commission, Universal Access Commission and Transportation Commission, as well as Madison Street businesses and property owners and neighborhood residents.

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Madison Street Planning  
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Additional public forums are planned, and the community will be kept up to date through a special project website expected to go on-line before the end of the year.

For more information call 358.5425 or email [comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us). Information also will be posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

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A project schedule is attached.



Village of Oak Park  
**MADISON STREET CORRIDOR**  
**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

**Project Steering Committee Meeting #1 (with Village Board), Kick-off Meeting:** Thursday, December 1st (7:00)

**Public Assets and Opportunities Forum:** Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> (7:00)

**Public Visioning Forum:** Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> (7:00)

**Project Steering Committee Meeting #2, Discuss Inventory Report, Vision Alternatives, and Opportunity Analysis:** Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> (6:30)

*Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Presentation to Historic Preservation Commission: Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> (at regular meeting)*

*Plan Commission to review Inventory Report and Vision Alternatives (no consultants present): Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> (at regular meeting)*

**Public Meeting to Present Vision Alternatives:** Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> (7:00)

**Project Steering Committee Meeting #3 (with Village Board), Discuss Preferred Vision:** Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> (7:00)

*Plan Commission to review Preferred Vision (no consultants present): Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> (at regular meeting)*

**Public Presentation of Preferred Vision:** Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> (7:00)

**Public Visual Preference Survey:** Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> (7:00)

*Discuss Draft Corridor Plan with Village Board: Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> (7:00)*

**Project Steering Committee Meeting #4, Discuss Draft Corridor Plan:** Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (6:30)

**Public Meeting to Present Draft Corridor Plan:** Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> (7:00)

*Plan Commission to review Draft Corridor Plan (no consultants present): Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> (at regular meeting)*

**Project Steering Committee #5, Discuss Final Corridor Plan:** Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> (6:30)

**Final Plan Presentation to Plan Commission and Village Board (with Project Steering Committee):** Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (7:00)