



**For Immediate Release:** 09.07.11

From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781  
[powers@oak-park.us](mailto:powers@oak-park.us)

Contact: Doug Kaarre  
Urban Planner  
708.358.5417  
[kaarre@oak-park.us](mailto:kaarre@oak-park.us)

**Architectural survey to document buildings along I-290 corridor**

A survey of property along the I-290 expressway is poised to begin documenting the area's early and mid-20th century architecture to help ensure historic resources are adequately protected as the state continues to consider future expansion of the route.

Surveyors and photographers from Village contractor [Preservation Services and Technology Group](#) will be in the area in the fall gathering information and documenting historic resources well in advance of any formal release of plans by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"A survey of the I-290 corridor through the Village is a high priority not only for the Village and [Historic Preservation Commission](#), but also for the larger, regional community as well," said Doug Kaarre, who manages Oak Park's historic preservation programs. "As I-290 celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010, discussions by state highway planners to potentially expand or in some way alter the expressway has raised important questions about its local significance that the survey may help to answer."

Kaarre said conducting an architectural survey is the most effective approach to truly understanding the nature of the historic resources that may be affected by any changes to I-290. Findings from the survey should help officials make informed decisions on preserving the architectural history of the neighborhoods that might otherwise be lost if they are not considered during the planning process, he said.

The [survey area](#) is bounded generally by Harrison and Van Buren streets and Jackson Boulevard on the north, Harvard and Lexington streets on the south, Austin Boulevard on the east and Harlem Avenue on the west, all of which could be affected should the highway be altered in any significant way.

According to Kaarre, the area includes a range of architectural styles and building types, including bungalows, American foursquares and modern apartment buildings.

Anyone with information on their houses such as construction date, original owner, architect or builder, is urged to call 708.358.5417 or email [kaarre@oak-park.us](mailto:kaarre@oak-park.us).

###