



**DUPAGE  
COUNTY**

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## DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

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Willowbrook Corner Planning Services  
Meeting Notes  
July 7, 2021, 5:30-7:00 pm  
On-line meeting  
Kickoff Meeting

### Meeting Attendees

Brazzil, G. (WSP Consultant Team)  
Childress, M. (NAACP)  
Covino, C. ( Hinsdale Township HS District 86)  
Guenov, D. (Pace Suburban Bus)  
Hall, M. (Avanath)  
Janowick, D. ( The Community House)  
Loper, J. (DuPage Co, Project Manager)  
Lupa, M ( WSP Consultant Team)  
Park, C. (Assistance League)  
Patton, L. (YWCA Metro Chicago)  
Pocius, D. (YMCA)  
Renehan, J. (DuPage County Board)  
Schvach, L. (workNet DuPage)  
Truman, A. (Hinsdale Township HS District 86)  
Verthein, B. (Hinsdale Township HS District 86)  
Williams, W. (Burr Ridge Middle School)  
Young, J. (Avanath)

The 90 minutes meeting was a very direct round table discussion of background, challenges and ideas on transportation/communication in Willowbrook Corners. The PowerPoint presentation and related elements were set aside for a heartfelt give and take among the advocacy group members, all of whom are embedded in the community in a wide variety of ways.

Transportation –

- The group reviewed the mode choices that U.S. Census ACS summary provided. The percentage of transit and carpoolers was higher in Willowbrook Corners than in DuPage County in general. The average trip time to work was also higher.
- Traditional public transportation does not serve Willowbrook Corners well. The orientation of the single Pace route, 664, (now suspended) to the Metra station is not useful for getting around. The group asked the Pace representative about the frequency and the line haul time of bus service available near Willowbrook Corners. The one-hour headways and very long bus travel times (to Walmart, for

example) are not conducive to bus use. For people working in retail or food services, late night bus service, or a flexible transportation alternative, is needed.

- Pace survey provided information on trips other than work/school that residents need to make. These include shopping, training programs, medical, banking and library.
- Does Pace have pilots on flexible transportation service? An example is deviated fixed-route service - a hybrid of fixed-route and demand-response services. With this type of service, a bus or van stops at fixed points and keeps to a timetable but can deviate its course between two stops to go to a specific location for a pre-scheduled request.
- 26% of households have no vehicle available (zero auto household). The turnover of residents may well be related to auto ownership in that once the household obtains a car, they are able to relocate out of the neighborhood, creating a cycle of constrained mobility.
- Biking and walking are not attractive – there are few destinations nearby and IL-83 is a major arterial difficult to cross. Safety in crossing state facilities is a considerable concern.

#### Economic Development/Jobs –

- Ms. Schvach recommended adding employers to the advocacy team. Existing efforts in Bedford Park were cited as potential resources.
- Pilot programs linking potential workers, including students, with jobs were recommended.

#### Education –

- After school activities are constrained for junior high and high school students who live in Willowbrook Corners. There is no transportation from school to home to serve those who do not have a ride.
- Childcare enrichment programs also are located a distance from the Willowbrook Corners, constraining parents from readily accessing them.
- Community House serves 80-100 kids per day. An auto or a transit link is needed to connect parents with this service/location.
- Supporting students of all ages is a critical part of the solution path.

#### Equity/Race –

- Over 60% of the residents of Willowbrook Corners are Black.
- Race is a factor in the lack of resources in the neighborhood.

Safety –

- Comments were made on the fact that Willowbrook Corners is an unincorporated area of DuPage County. This means that law enforcement is the county sheriff. There have been programs to bring together law enforcement officers and residents of unincorporated areas of the county.

CONCLUDING NOTES ON WILLOWBROOK CORNERS ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING:

- Quality of Life is a fundamental goal of the Willowbrook activities.
- Barriers to food, work and education/enrichment are critical issues.
- Race is a factor in lack of resources.
- Transportation is a problem locally (with a lack of sidewalk and safe infrastructure) and is an economic issue for families in the neighborhood.

ACTION ITEMS

- DuPage County to review similar neighborhoods in SE DuPage
- Project Team to prepare a neighborhood survey for Advocacy Group to review.
- Project Team to research and recommend possible grant programs for transportation and safety solutions
- Project Team to follow up with individual advocates on key discussion points

The meeting concluded at 7 pm.