



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PLAN TO CREATE SEASONAL OPEN SPACES INTRODUCED TO CITY COUNCIL**

*New "People Spots" Part of CDOT's "Make Way for People" Initiative*

CHICAGO – Mayor Rahm Emanuel introduced a plan to the City Council today work with neighborhood service providers to create seasonal open space for outdoor seating along commercial corridors to increase pedestrian volumes and promote economic development.

The plan is part of the "Make Way for People" initiative of the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) that aims to create public spaces that cultivate community and culture in Chicago's neighborhoods through placemaking.

"These projects support innovation in the public way by opening Chicago's streets, parking spots, plazas and alleys to new programming and market opportunities," Mayor Emanuel said. "In addition to improving street safety and promoting walkable communities, this initiative supports economic development for Chicago's local businesses and Chicago's neighborhoods via public and private partnerships."

If approved, CDOT will partner with local chambers of commerce that manage Special Service Areas (SSA) to develop "People Spots," temporary platforms on the street adjacent to sidewalks, typically within existing parking lanes.

"By expanding the sidewalks, these spots create seasonal space for outdoor seating and dining," said CDOT Commissioner Gabe Klein. "As a placemaking tool, they also contribute to an increase of pedestrian volumes and help promote economic development in retail corridors."

The following are potential People Spots pilot locations:

- Lincoln Avenue between Southport and Lakewood Avenues: sponsored by SSA #27/Lakeview Chamber of Commerce



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- Clark Street and Farragut Avenue: sponsored by SSA #22/Andersonville Chamber of Commerce
- 47th Street and Greenwood Avenue: sponsored by SSA #47/Quad Communities Development Corporation
- 47th Street and Champlain Avenue: sponsored by SSA #47/Quad Communities Development Corporation

“People Streets” convert “excess” asphalt into year-round hardscape public spaces with the purpose of creating safer intersections and additional open space in neighborhoods. People Streets are intended for dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs, or areas of excess pavement.

These areas would be designated by CDOT in conjunction with a community partner to create community programming, encourage walkable communities and further support economic development.

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