

# Calumet Area Land Use Plan and Design Guidelines Update

## Working Group # 2 Meeting Summary

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:30 PM | Zoom

The below summarizes the content presented and feedback received during Working Group Meeting #2 for the Calumet Area Land Use Plan and Design Guidelines Update, led by the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD). The summary is organized by a presentation section followed by a summary of the activities and discussion. For questions please reach out to Dhara Shah [dhara@musecommunitydesign.com](mailto:dhara@musecommunitydesign.com).

### WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

Working group participants present for this meeting:

Name	Organization
Adella Y. Bass	People for Community Recovery
Alaina Bridges	Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Alexandra Rosander	Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
Adam Flickinger	Friends of the Chicago River
Benet Haller	Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH)
Beth Dybala	Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)
Bradley Roback	Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
Chelsa Moore	MUSE Community + Design
Daniel White	Forest Preserves of Cook County
Dhara Shah	MUSE Community + Design
Eric Van Dreason	DPD
Erika Sellke	DPD
Felicia Minley	Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF)

Gaby Wagener-Sobrero	Chicago Department of the Environment (DOE)
Gail Walker	EnviroCom
Haley Sanders	Chicago Park District
Isis Bazaldua	Bridges // Puentes Justice Collective
Janie Pochel	Chi Nations Youth Council
Jasmine Gunn	DPD
Kennedy Causby	MUSE Community + Design
Lauren Umek	Chicago Park District
Laura Verden	Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
Lizeth Solis	MUSE Community + Design
Lolita Thompson	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)
Luke Mich	DPD
Megan Miller	Metra
Representative of Peter Chico	10th Ward
Quinn Kasal	CTA
Roxy (Margaret Cortes)	Parents of Extraordinary Children
Ryan Richter	CDOT
Stephen Ostrander	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Thomas Daniels	7th Ward
Vanessa Bly	Bridges // Puentes Justice Collective

**Agenda:**

1. Introduction
2. Working Group #1 Recap
3. Prior Plans Overview
4. Calumet Planning Topics & Draft Objectives
5. Breakout Group Activity
6. Next Steps

The team provided an update to the working group meeting series: Working Group Meeting #6 is moved to May, ahead of Community Meeting #2 which has been pushed to the end of June. The topics of the upcoming working groups include Working Group Meeting #3: Economy & Workforce, Working Group Meeting #4: Nature & Ecology, Working Group Meeting #5: Transportation & Infrastructure, and Working Group Meeting #: Health & Community.

**WORKING GROUP MEETING #1 RECAP**

A recap of Working Group Meeting #1 was presented to the participants, topics included:

1. Introductions and Plan Overview
2. Defining key terms, what is a land use plan, and design guidelines
3. Plan context and timeline
4. Working group schedule and roles
5. Engagement principles and norms
6. Calumet at a Glance
7. Activity with Citywide Industrial Corridor planning goals

**PRIOR PLANS OVERVIEW**

- Reviewed over 40+ plans
- Over 300 goals were analyzed to ensure alignment with current objectives

**CALUMET PLANNING TOPICS**

Four main themes were identified based on the goals and objectives of the Citywide Plan and other prior plans in and around Calumet:

- Economy & Workforce
- Nature & Ecology
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Health & Community

From this review of prior plans, a series of draft objectives were developed within each topic.

#### ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

- Promote a sustainable and resilient manufacturing and industrial jobs center.
- Expand economic opportunity and access to jobs for local workers.
- Support small and mid-sized businesses.
- Activate underutilized properties with contextually appropriate land uses.
- Ensure effective and efficient permitting and regulation.

#### NATURE & ECOLOGY

- Mitigate ecological impacts of industrial corridors.
- Maintain and expand natural areas, open space and recreational opportunities.
- Invest in a clean, safe, and accessible Calumet River System.
- Encourage sustainable, resilient and low carbon site and building design.
- Promote environmental stewardship and educational opportunities.

#### TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support river, rail and road freight movement and reduce conflicts with other users.
- Encourage transit and active transportation for industrial corridor commuters.
- Improve bike and pedestrian connectivity between recreational opportunities.
- Utilize green infrastructure to buffer incompatible uses and address ecology.
- Modernize energy and communications infrastructure for 21<sup>st</sup> century users.

#### HEALTH & COMMUNITY

- Equitably mitigate public health impacts of industrial corridors.
- Address conflicts between incompatible land uses and reduce adjacencies.
- Strengthen enforcement of public health regulations and pursue violators.
- Support public well-being through access to open space.
- Bolster regional cultural heritage, identity and pride.

#### **BREAKOUT GROUP ACTIVITY**

The group participated in a collaborative activity via MIRO and was encouraged to share thoughts on digital sticky notes in response to the prompts about the objectives listed above. Four facilitated discussion groups rotated through four topics, each allocated 15 minutes.

#### **DISCUSSION OVERVIEW**

Across all four groups, participants identified gaps, offered additional considerations, and provided actionable ideas to enhance and further clarify the objectives for each planning topic.

Participants highlighted the importance of creating an equitable, sustainable, and community-focused approach to urban development. Key insights included prioritizing ecological mitigation, improving multi-modal transportation, enhancing bike and pedestrian safety, strengthening mental health and healthcare access, and supporting local businesses and workforce development. Participants also highlighted the need for clearer objectives, suggesting that some objectives be re-worded for clarity and greater specificity be added to better guide implementation. In summary, the feedback emphasized the need for inclusivity, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunities that support the well-being of all community members.

## **Next Steps**

The next Working Group meeting is February 11<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. The calendar invite has been sent out.

The first public Community Meeting was on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the South Chicago Salud Center (3039 E. 91<sup>st</sup> St.) from 6:00 – 8:30pm.