

# Wilson Drive Community Task Force

An Update from the Strategic Initiatives Committee

Trustee Paul Zovic, Chair

July 11, 2016



## **Framework for Wilson Drive Community Task Force**

October 19, 2015

### **PURPOSE**

The Strategic Initiatives Committee (SIC) will convene the Wilson Drive Community Task Force to evaluate options for the reconstruction of Wilson Drive and make recommendations to the Village Board based on that evaluation. This project supports the Village Board's objective(s) to maximize resident and stakeholder engagement and will target construction in 2018.

### **BACKGROUND**

Over 10 years ago the Village identified the Wilson Drive as being in poor condition and in need of reconstruction. At the same time, local architects approached Milwaukee County and the Village to improve connections from Shorewood's neighborhoods into Estabrook Park. Reducing the road width was part of the conversation to improve those connections.

The Village Board adopted a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2007 and formed the Village Parks Commission in 2008. The Plan identified investments in Estabrook Park as a pro-active way to increase access to the park for Shorewood residents.

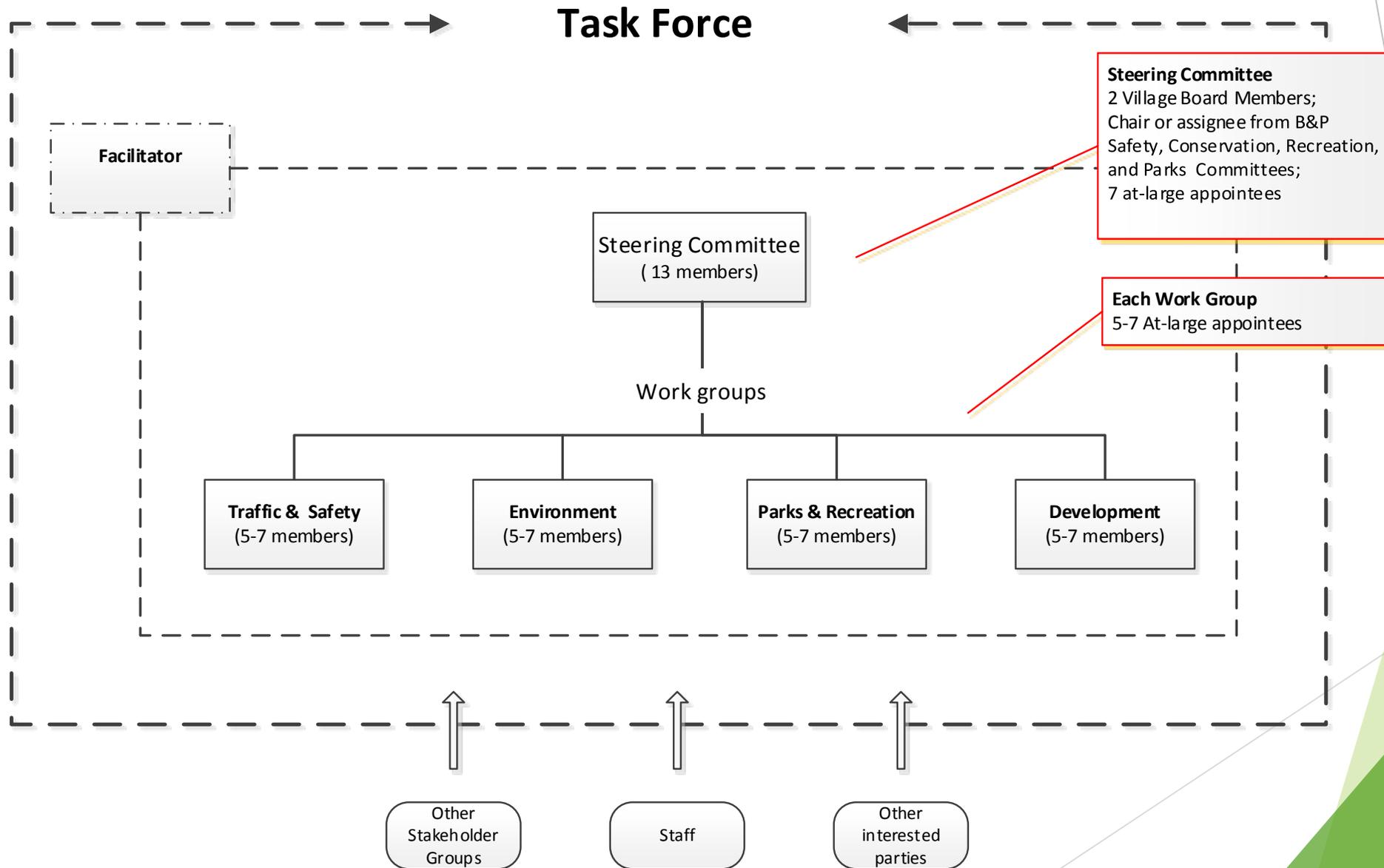
Further concentration on the corridor increased as the roadway's condition continued to deteriorate. The Village submitted two grants to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to reconstruct the corridor. Neither grant was awarded. During the 2010 grant application process, the Village evaluated potential road widths and redevelopment and contemplated the creation of a corridor master plan. All efforts ceased following the two July 2010 flood events.

Discussions about the Wilson Drive corridor were reignited in 2014, during the update of the Central District Master Plan. The corridor was initially identified in the draft plan as a redevelopment opportunity, and then subsequently removed. The decision to form a Wilson Drive Corridor Task Force was born out of the Central District Master Plan update process.

Wilson Drive continues to deteriorate and earlier in 2015, the Village identified that the roadway will need full reconstruction in 2018.

Since February 2015, the Village Board's Strategic Initiatives Committee has been discussing a plan to evaluate options for the corridor and meet the reconstruction schedule. The framework presented herein is based on Committee meetings in February – June 2015, and includes the task force organization, key tasks and a timeline.

# From Oct 19, 2015 Framework



# Task Force

- ▶ Wilson Drive Steering Committee
  - ▶ Develop and implement communications plan to ensure public participation
  - ▶ Provide oversight and guidance to work groups
  - ▶ Review findings/opinions of each work group
  - ▶ Organize alternative scenarios for public review and comment
- ▶ Work Groups
  - ▶ Identify and gather data and information as needed
  - ▶ Engage subject matter experts as necessary
  - ▶ Identify priorities, requirements, possibilities, and constraints
  - ▶ Develop options for development scenarios
    - ▶ Keep road as is
    - ▶ Reconfigure Road
    - ▶ Create new space

# Where are we?

- ▶ Task force work is on schedule

Develop project framework	Feb-June	2015
Board approval of framework	June	2015
Select/approve Steering Committee members	July-Sept	2015
Establish project plan	Sept-Oct	2015
Develop Communications Plan	Oct-Nov	2015
Identification and appointment of Work Groups	Nov - Dec	2015
Work groups work	Jan - Sept	2016
Public review of scenarios	Oct - Dec	2016
Task Force (via SIC) recommendations	Dec	2016
Board consideration		2017
Design and Construction Documents		2017
Budget		2017
Bid		2018
Construction		2018



# June 15, 2016 Open House

- ▶ Over 200 attendees (from sign-in)
- ▶ About 130 written responses (most from western residents)
- ▶ Varied opinions on roadway size/configuration
- ▶ Varied ideas for parking, ped-crossings, bike lanes, etc
- ▶ Vast majority of written comments opposed to residential or commercial development on west side of WD
- ▶ Only 8 written responses favored development (5 were conditioned)
- ▶ Strong support for:
  - ▶ More trees, natural/green space
  - ▶ Recreation space/amenities
  - ▶ Improved park access
- ▶ Misconceptions, misinformation, misunderstanding

# Simply Put....

- ▶ “Make beautiful, not busy!”

# What About Development?

- ▶ Development (commercial/residential) not practical
  - ▶ Limited space
  - ▶ No utilities
  - ▶ Legal and administrative issues
  - ▶ Little public interest

# Strategic Initiatives Committee

- ▶ Committee recommends TF continuation/completion
- ▶ Keep to approved framework schedule
- ▶ SIC recommends not pursuing commercial or residential development
  - ▶ Reflects Committee and Board interest
  - ▶ Reflects geographic, economic, environmental and social interests
  - ▶ Focus continued work on further development of creative options

# Next Steps

- ▶ Next SC meeting July 13, 2016
- ▶ SC to convene additional sessions to refine concepts, summarize options and present alternatives

# Options Summary

	Leave as is		Reconfigure road		Create new space	
<b>Traffic &amp; Safety</b>	Features		Features		Features	
	Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages	
	Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages	
	Cost		Cost		Cost	
	Funding		Funding		Funding	
	Data needs		Data needs		Data needs	
	Comments		Comments		Comments	
<b>Environment</b>	Features		Features		Features	
	Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages	
	Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages	
	Cost		Cost		Cost	
	Funding		Funding		Funding	
	Data needs		Data needs		Data needs	
	Comments		Comments		Comments	
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	Features		Features		Features	
	Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages	
	Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages	
	Cost		Cost		Cost	
	Funding		Funding		Funding	
	Data needs		Data needs		Data needs	
	Comments		Comments		Comments	
<b>Development</b>	Features		Features		Features	
	Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages		Opportunities/ Advantages	
	Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages		Limitations/ Disadvantages	
	Cost		Cost		Cost	
	Funding		Funding		Funding	
	Data needs		Data needs		Data needs	
	Comments		Comments		Comments	

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	Funding		Funding		Funding	
	Data needs		Data needs		Data needs	
	Comments		Comments		Comments	

# Next Steps (continued)

- ▶ SC to identify additional data needs
  - ▶ Some basic data for development options may be useful
- ▶ Deliver summary to SIC
- ▶ Presentation of alternatives and recommendation to full Village Board