

Grand Ave. Committee

150 Voters Call for Teamwork with Mayor Johnson for Grand Ave. from Damen Ave. to Ashland Ave.



Date: September 10, 2025

To: The Honorable Brandon Johnson, Mayor, City of Chicago

From: 150 Chicago Voters Represented by the Grand Avenue Committee • Committee Co-Chairs: Mickey Olguin-Rivera 773-919-2606 and Doug Van Tress 312-758-1222 • Email: grandavechicago@gmail.com

Cc: Craig Turner, Commissioner, Chicago Transportation Department (CDOT)

We, the 150 voters on this letter, seek to collaborate with you and the Chicago Transportation Department (CDOT) regarding the future reconstruction of Grand Ave. from Damen Ave. to Ashland Ave. The Grand Ave. Committee is serving as a forum for voters, business leaders & other Chicago stakeholders to communicate with your administration.

Due to the urgency of CDOT’s proposed reconstruction of Grand Ave./Damen to Ashland in 2026, we propose to have a private meeting with your team on Wednesday Sept. 24 or Thursday Sept. 25 at 6pm at Tortorice’s Pizza 1746 W. Grand Ave. Their room holds 30 people. Participation could be in person or by virtual call.

We ask you to kindly reply to this letter by Tuesday Sept. 16 by email or call Doug at the number above. If your team will participate in our meeting, please state your preferred date. Here is why this issue is urgent:

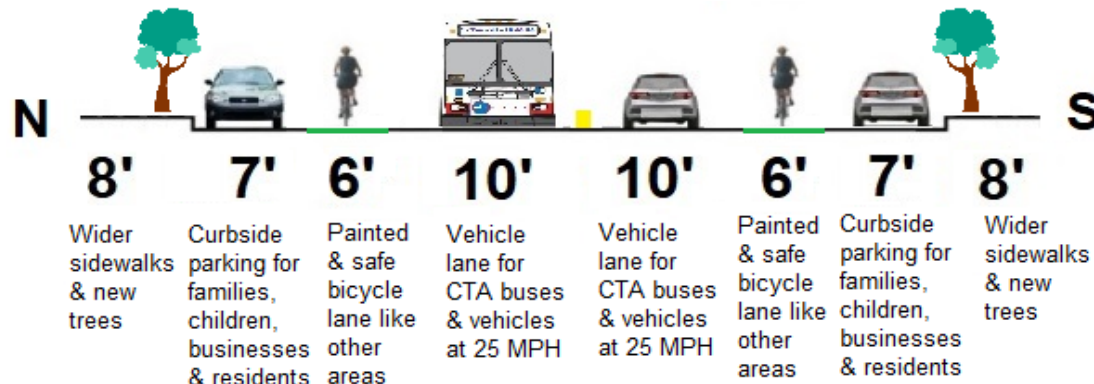
CDOT wants to reconstruct Grand Ave./Damen to Ashland in 2026, but there have been no CDOT meetings to specifically engage voters and stakeholders about the Damen-to-Ashland segment. For our Chicago democracy, members of the public should have a voice in city projects and be able to say what we want and what we don’t want.

While CDOT had 2 meetings in 2023 about Grand Ave., those meetings were focused on the reconstruction of Grand Ave./Chicago Ave. to Damen Ave. Now, we ask your team to focus on Grand/Damen to Ashland and decide the design together.

For this street segment, our voters and Grand Ave. leaders want full public safety for pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles and CTA buses. Based on the needs of businesses, property owners & residents - - and the needs of parents, children & customers coming to Grand Ave. - - our proposed street design differs from CDOT’s proposal. We want to:

- Retain today’s curbside vehicle parking, so childcare parents & business customers are not forced to walk across concrete bike-lane barriers & across 6’wide bike lanes that would have fast-moving electric bikes & electric scooters - - while CDOT’s design wants to eliminate curbside vehicle parking & install curbside bike lanes/concrete bike-lane barriers.
- Retain today’s Grand Ave. parking spaces for families, customers & residents and for the future economic development growth of Grand Ave. - - while CDOT’s plan would eliminate about 60% of existing parking spaces.
- Install painted & safe 6’ wide bike lanes like the painted & safe bike lanes on other Chicago streets - - while CDOT’s design wants curbside bike lanes & concrete bike-lane barriers as noted above which would eliminate curbside vehicle parking.
- Allow full access for emergency vehicles by allowing extra street width, so travel-lane vehicles can move to the side of the road in emergencies - - while CDOT’s design would narrow the street width and essentially prohibit emergency vehicles.
- Cut the speeds of vehicles & CTA buses to 25 MPH.
- Improve CTA bus service with better bus speeds, new bus shelters & safer bus stops.
- Expand the sidewalk widths by 2 feet and plant new sidewalk trees.

For our proposed design for Grand Ave./Damen to Ashland, we offer these estimated street measurements:



Mayor Johnson, thank you for your consideration. For the best future of Grand Ave. from Damen Ave. to Ashland Ave., our voters and community leaders want to collaborate with you & your team to gain a street design that emphasizes safety for all, the survival of businesses and future prosperity. Here are 150 Chicago voters who support our Committee’s goals:

Michael Abrams	Lucas Goldbach	Nicole Oehler
Oladoyin Ajilore	Ashley Greene	Mickey Olguin-Rivera
Olusola Ajilore	Earon Grinage	Cynthia Olson
Jim Alfaro	Alma Gutierrez	Adam Ornelas
Michael Andrews	Francisco Méndez Guzmán	April Pagan
Rob Andrews	Brett Hart	Vanessa Palmer
Nancy Angelair	Dontrey Britt Hart	Stanley Paul
Sonia Arroyave	Matthew Harvat	Collins Pease
John Artibee	Emily Hansen	Kelmer Perez
Mary K. Avery	Ann Heisler	Paul Peroutka
Vincent Baer	Brian Hetzer	Danny Popuch
Elizabeth Bertucci	Martin Horner	Kimberly Postma
Katherine Best	Brian Hurley	John Pritchard
Adam Bilter	Denise Janis	Rob Procell
Brianne Bishop	Candace Jordan	Dan Rak
Courtney Farrell Brouse	Chuck Jordan	Mia Rao
Jeffrey Brunstein	Gail Kahn	Tom Riker
Irena Cajkova	Ronald Kahn	Emma Rios
Angel Calderon	James Kinney	Peter Rios
Nicole Campbell	Shanaya Kolaras	Juan Rodriguez
Milagaro Cardenas	David Koo	Jessica Rosa
Charro Carrillo	Lesly Koo	Ryan Ruskin
Henry Chang	Sherry Koppel	Tim Salm
Isaac Chucipe	Debra Kotzen	Dionioes Sampson
Patrick Collins	Michael Kutza	Gabriel Sanchez
Michael Connelly	Jessica Lagrange	Belkis Santos
Casey Contes	Melinda Lagrange	Emily Santos
Joan Craig	Keith Largay	Cara Schapiro
Julian Crain	Jennifer Ames Lazarre	Cody Schipp
Bertha Crillio	Anna Leonardi	Nora Schneider
Angel Diaz	Mikale Lindsey	Tom Segal
Rachel Diaz	Molly Link	Leslie Senne
Susan Dolan	Linda Little	Anik Shah
James Dolenc	Tiffany Lowder	Mike Shively
Jean Dufresne	Brian Maher	Douglas Smith
Lindsay Eckert	Rachel Maher	Tim Smith
Julie Edwards	David Mahoney	Peggy Snorf
Maricruz Elidado	Miguel Mares	Brian Snow
Marshall Erb	Peter Mark	John Hwa Ryong Seo
Sean Eshaghy	Leah Marks	Natasha Spencer
Ricky Escobedo	Ryan Marks	Katie Stamaris
Stephanie Escobedo	Molly McDermott	Barb Steinhauser
Curtis Evans	Nicole Michigami	Tom Stringer
Fernando Falcon Jr.	Jesus Miranda	Bill Strong
Nina Fernandez	Marcos Montanez	Demeko Taylor
Amanda Fox	Sherrie Morales	Doug Van Tress
Bruce Fox	Jeff Moy	Laura Vincenzo
Helena Gabriel	Liz Nicholson	Austin Werkmeister
Sonal Gandhi	Brendan O'Brian	Brian White
Darr Gapshis	Sean O'Connor	James Woodward