

### What is Reconnecting Neighborhoods?

Reconnecting Neighborhoods is a project to support residents of Chicago's Near West, Mid-South, and Near North neighborhoods through increased transportation, infrastructure, and expanded retail choices. What began in 2007 as a two-year planning process sponsored by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and City of Chicago to improve access and amenities near Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Plan for Transformation sites has evolved into an action plan to improve the transportation networks and attract retail for each of the three neighborhoods.



### What are the goals of Reconnecting Neighborhoods?

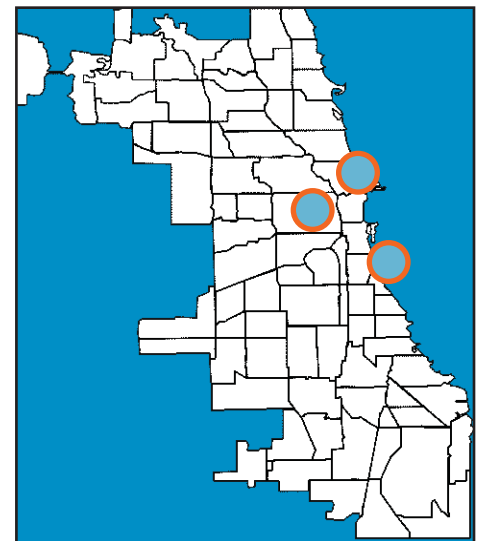
Adopted by the City of Chicago Plan Commission in July of 2009, the Reconnecting Neighborhoods plan (found at [www.metroplanning.org](http://www.metroplanning.org)) recommends investments ranging from new *train stations* and *street cars*, to *bike lanes* and improved *sidewalks* and *crosswalks* — all of which support three interconnected goals.

**Equity:** Ensuring residents of mixed-income communities, particularly those with low and moderate incomes, have access to adequate retail and job opportunities, and safe and reliable public transportation.

**Affordable housing:** Maximizing the significant public investment in the Plan for Transformation with the creation of 'complete' communities that reduce the cost of both housing and transportation for residents.

**Transportation and greenhouse gas reduction:** Providing alternative transportation choices for residents to reduce their costs and miles traveled by car, reducing environmental impact in neighborhoods conveniently located near Chicago's Central Business District.

Chicago's Near West, Mid-South, and Near North neighborhoods were the focus of Reconnecting Neighborhoods



### Reconnecting Neighborhoods Background

The Reconnecting Neighborhoods plan was developed by the consulting firm HNTB and informed by an extensive community planning process conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Council. This included convening several public meetings, three local task forces, and an Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IGAC) comprised of elected and appointed officials, developers, and private sector and community stakeholders. In addition, MPC organized an expert panel of national and local experts in the fields of planning, transportation infrastructure, public-private finance, transit-oriented development, and affordable and public housing, to sharpen the recommendations and identify local and federal funding opportunities.

Starting in 2009, MPC is leading the implementation phase of Reconnecting Neighborhoods, with support from and coordination with the IGAC and other partners. With new direction by the federal government to align housing, transportation and energy investments, Reconnecting Neighborhoods, by its interdisciplinary nature, is poised to be a demonstration project, illustrating the benefits of directing multiple investments in a coordinated fashion to create more vibrant and livable communities.



Extensive community participation in the three neighborhoods was key to developing recommendations for transit, jobs and other essential opportunities that reflect residents' collective vision of what their neighborhoods can be.



**The infusion of millions of dollars into the Plan for Transformation was necessary to launch the important process of redeveloping public housing, but it did not fund the interconnected needs of a truly successful community, particularly access to retail, jobs, and public transportation. Through Reconnecting Neighborhoods, MPC is working with its partners to maximize that historic investment by attracting other vital neighborhood amenities.**