The development process

The land under evaluation as part of this CDI process is currently owned by the City of Chicago. The station plaza is managed by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and the adjacent parking lot is managed by the Department of Finance. In addition, the CTA manages the Blue Line station entrances located north and south of Milwaukee Avenue at the intersection with Kedzie Avenue, as well as the bus turnaround currently used by the #76 Diversey bus.

Transportation study and Milwaukee Avenue Complete Streets Project

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is currently evaluating traffic circulation on several segments of Milwaukee Avenue as part of a funded complete streets project. The goal of the project is to reduce the number of crashes on the street, calm traffic, increase efficiency and increase the number of cycling, walking and transit trips. This study will identify current issues in the area and propose alternatives, which may include the rerouting of current streets, the creation of new public spaces and improved bicycle and pedestrian circulation. This study will provide several alternatives by summer 2015 and be followed by a public process.

Once a plan for the area has been identified and the cost of improvements has been calculated, the City of Chicago will work with partners to identify funding sources for the project. It will work with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to secure state and federal approvals, which could be completed by 2017. Work on improvements, if funded, could begin in 2018 based on current projections. The CDOT study will take into account the Your New Blue improvement program being undertaken by the CTA, as well as the inputs from this CDI.

Land disposition process

The Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is charged with the disposition of publicly owned land that is ready for sale or lease to another entity. Alderman Colón asked DPD to begin evaluating potential development for both the station plaza and the adjacent parking lot; this CDI is designed to collect public input that will inform that discussion. A typical disposition process asks developers for their proposed use of land, the amount they would be willing to pay for it and their qualifications. DPD typically forms an internal review committee to recommend a development proposal, which is honed and then submitted to the alderman. Alderman Colón expects to provide another opportunity for community residents to shape development at that point.

What impact will the Logan Square CDI have on the development of these sites?

Over the course of the next few years, DPD and CTA will work with Alderman Colón, city agencies and others to evaluate the future of these sites. Following completion of the CDOT study in 2015, DPD and CTA will work with the Alderman to address the recommendations from the Logan Square CDI in any future request for proposals (RFP) or request for qualifications (RFQ).