



## Chicago Park District

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## Press Release

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### **CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT, CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCE NEXT ROUNDS OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

#### **TO SOLICIT ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR JACKSON & SOUTH SHORE PARKS**

*Four additional community meetings scheduled for August & September  
to provide an update on the South Lakefront planning process*

Following the four community meetings that were held in June and July to discuss plans for Jackson and South Shore Parks, including the Obama Presidential Center, the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) announced the dates of the next round of community meetings to solicit additional input from residents, provide an update on the planning process and address questions that were raised by residents in June and July. CDOT will host two open houses in August, and the Park District will host two community meetings in September.

“As CDOT continues to develop plans for proposed changes to the transportation network in and around Jackson and South Shore Parks to support the major investments planned for this area, the feedback we have received from residents is vital to our efforts,” said CDOT Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld. “We look forward to sharing and discussing the latest plans and designs with residents at this next round of meetings.”

Because the most popular topic for open-ended commentary during the community meetings in June and July was mobility and transportation, the next round of community meetings will present potential transportation investments to mitigate the impacts of proposed closures of sections of roadway within Jackson Park. These next meetings will be an open house format and will be held at the South Shore Cultural Center on August 23 from 4 pm – 8 pm and August 24 from 4 pm – 8 pm. At these events, residents will be able to review, discuss and provide comment on design concepts for key segments and intersections of the roadway network, including Lake Shore Drive, Hayes Drive, Stony Island Avenue and Midway Plaisance as well as improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Following these transportation-centric meetings, the Park District will host two community meetings at the South Shore Cultural Center on September 21 and 25. At these meetings, officials from the Park District will gather input of existing conditions from park users and work with the community to develop a vision for future park improvements. The Park District will also address some of the questions that were raised in the first round of meetings and provide updates about recreation, ecology and programming in Jackson and South Shore Parks.

"These community meetings continue to be an essential part of the planning process because they provide local residents and legitimate stakeholders the opportunity to play a pivotal role in deciding how the District can best serve its patrons, while shaping a better future for the South Lakefront," said Michael Kelly, General Superintendent and CEO of the Chicago Park District.

These meetings follow four meetings held in June and July that kicked off a framework planning process for a new South Lakefront Framework, an updated version of the 1999 framework plan encompassing Jackson Park, Washington Park and South Shore Cultural Center. Given the addition of the Obama Presidential Center and related park improvements, the framework will first focus on changes to Jackson and South Shore Parks, with a discussion about Washington Park to be held at a later date. Public comments from the June and July meetings are now available online; to read them or to learn more about the framework planning process, visit [southlakefrontplan.com](http://southlakefrontplan.com).

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