

Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Update - Fall, 2013

Posted on 9/4/2013
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study

Once the State of Illinois Department of Transportation completes the modernization of the traffic signals at Milwaukee & Oakton; Milwaukee & Howard; Milwaukee & Harlem and Howard & Harlem in September, 2013, the Village of Niles will be able to complete the final punch list items remaining on the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Phase II plan. In the area of Milwaukee Avenue from Harlem Avenue to Oakton Street a number of enhancements were made including:

- Brick crosswalk installations
- New sidewalks
- Installation of pedestrian lights in the Howard/Harlem and Oakton areas
- Repainting and/or replacement of streetlights
- Installation of decorative fencing at Milwaukee & Oakton intersection
- Installation of brick paver plazas at various intersections
- Planting of 80 new trees along Milwaukee Avenue
- In cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, street banners were installed in the area
- Previously concrete/asphalt parkway areas were replaced with sod.

The next phase of the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape program is currently in the final design stage, and is the area from Oakton Street to Monroe Street. It is anticipated the project will go out to bid in March, 2014, and construction will take place during the summer and fall of 2014. Enhancements similar to other areas along Milwaukee Avenue will be continued, however the emphasis placed on landscaping in this area. Below is an image which highlights the improvements that will take place.



As you can see, many parkway areas which are currently asphalt or concrete will be removed and replaced with landscaped areas with planter boxes and a decorative brick border along Milwaukee Avenue. The landscaped areas will include salt tolerant sod, perennial plantings and trees. Not only will this enhance the look of the area, it will also help reduce the impact to the storm water drainage system. A pdf version of this image is available by clicking on the following link: [Milwaukee Avenue Phase IV Streetscape Plan](#).

Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Phase II Update

Posted on 10/9/2012 7:56:40 AM
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study

The streetscape work at the intersections of Milwaukee Avenue and Harlem/Howard/ and Oakton is nearing conclusion for this construction season. Currently, the brick crosswalks are complete, new sidewalk poured, pedestrian lights have been erected, sod has been laid, and the decorative banding is complete. In addition, the Pace bus stops have been relocated at the far end of the intersections, where possible, for transit efficiency.

The work that has yet to be completed is:

1. Banners are being installed in cooperation with the [Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#). The goal is to have banners along the entire length of Milwaukee Avenue. Click here for Banner Sponsorship [APPLICATION](#).
2. Eight streetlights from Monroe to Neva are being replaced for safety reasons and have not been painted black. These will be replaced with black streetlights;
3. Modernization of the traffic signals will be done by the State of Illinois. These new LED systems will improve pedestrian safety

- with a countdown that allows additional time for seniors to cross;
- Decorative fencing will wrap around each of the four corners at Milwaukee Avenue and Oakton. This fencing will be installed after the traffic signals are installed by the State;
 - The corner brick paver plazas will be installed after the traffic signals are installed by the State; and
 - The Village will be installing 80 trees along Milwaukee Avenue from Monroe to Neva this Fall.**

The Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee and consultants from HR Green, Inc. continue with the implementation of the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Plan approved by the Board of Trustees in March of 2008. The current plan provides for improvements from Albion to Monroe.

Thanks to an initial \$850,000 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant in 2007, the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee developed a streetscape plan; the first phase of work at the intersection of Milwaukee and Touhy was completed in 2010. Although a small "punch list" of items remains to be reviewed, pedestrian lighting, brick pavers, new sidewalk, street furniture, decorative fencing, planters, and improved pedestrian signals provide pedestrians and vehicle occupants alike with a more pleasing and safe travel experience.

The second phase of the project will include the same streetscape improvements at the intersections of Milwaukee and Oakton, Milwaukee and Howard, and Milwaukee and Harlem. This work is made possible through two additional ITEP grants totaling \$1,370,000 and a \$444,600 federal Transportation Community and System Preservation (TCSP) grant through the help of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. In addition to the planned intersection improvements, new salt-tolerant trees will be planted in the parkway and sidewalk installed along Milwaukee Avenue between Neva and Monroe.

Although there are currently "Best Place to Raise a Family" banners along part of Milwaukee Avenue, the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee is also working on the installation of custom seasonal banners along the entire length of the Milwaukee Avenue corridor to be installed sometime next Spring or Summer.

With the future completion of Phase II next year from Albion to Monroe, the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee will have the job continuing the streetscape improvements from Monroe to Greenwood.



Milwaukee Avenue Grant Phase II

Posted on 11/3/2010 4:30:46 PM
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study

Awarded Third Grant

From the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Project

Niles – November 1, 2010. The State of Illinois awarded the Village of Niles a \$775,000 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant to continue the work as outlined within the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Plan approved by the Village Board of Trustees in the spring of 2008. The study can be found at www.vniles.com.

ITEP is a competitive federally funded program designed to improve the quality of life in Illinois by promoting alternative transportation through streetscape and beautification projects. "This grant will compliment nicely the Arterial Rapid Transit implementation project that is underway with PACE Suburban Bus as well as help Village efforts toward the revitalization of the Milwaukee Avenue corridor," stated Mayor Robert Callero.

To date, the Village of Niles has received \$2,690,000 in grant funds for the Milwaukee Avenue revitalization project. \$444,600 of these grant funds were secured by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky through the Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) program.

The Milwaukee Avenue revitalization project began in 2005 with a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) study grant of \$100,000. Assistant Village Manager Steven Vinezeano states, "The goals of this early study were to identify ways to improve transit facilities and service along Milwaukee Avenue, improve traffic movement and access to businesses, foster a safe environment that welcomes pedestrians, and improve beautification."

This funding will allow the Village of Niles to move forward with Phase II of the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape project. Currently, the final touches are being made to Phase I - the intersection of Touhy and Milwaukee. Phase II is tentatively planned for construction in the Spring and Summer of 2012 and that will include the intersection improvements at Harlem/Milwaukee, Howard/Milwaukee, and Oakton/Milwaukee.

Due to the type of improvements being made, traffic disruptions will be kept to a minimum.

PACE to Bring ART to Milwaukee Avenue

Posted on 5/26/2010 9:56:36 AM
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study

Arterial Rapid Transit (ART)

9/1/2011 Update

PACE has informed the Village that this project has been delayed until early 2012

The Village of Niles began the process of improving the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor in 2003 with a study funded by a \$100,000 Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) grant. The purpose of this initial RTA study was to "improve transit facilities and service along Milwaukee Avenue, within the context of an overall effort to improve the function and aesthetics of the Village's main commercial corridor."

This study was followed up in 2007 by an \$850,000 Illinois Transportation Enhancement (ITEP) grant used to develop the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Plan and implement streetscape improvements at the Touhy and Milwaukee intersection. A second ITEP grant and a federal grant through Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky were awarded in 2009 to construct streetscape improvements at the Oakton and Milwaukee intersection.

Because of these Corridor and Streetscape Plans and the Village's commitment to redeveloping the corridor, PACE is returning to Milwaukee Avenue to continue with their efforts to "improve transit facilities and service" with the introduction of an Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) system that will run from Jefferson Park Transit Center in Chicago to Golf Mill Mall in Niles.

One of the goals of the ART project is to improve bus travel time. Pace is planning to smooth traffic flow on Milwaukee Avenue by traffic signal coordination and the application of Transit Signal Priority. As part of this improvement, the Niles Free Bus system will be considered for a modernization study to improve cost efficiencies, ridership and service.

Watch a video on the Kansas City Max ART at: http://www.kcata.org/light_rail_max/max_and_bus_rapid_transit/

View the PACE ART presentation here: [PACE SLIDES](#)

Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee Meetings

Posted on 2/8/2010
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study

02/08/10	03/09/11	03/23/11
04/22/11	07/06/11	07/12/11
07/29/11	09/08/11	10/07/11
10/12/11	10/20/11	12/01/11
04/24/12	05/17/12	6/12/12
9/18/12		

Milwaukee Ave. Streetscape Project Grant

Posted on 12/22/2009 2:45:16 PM
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study

\$520,000 awarded to Niles to continue

Milwaukee Avenue corridor enhancements.

Niles – December 18, 2009. The State of Illinois awarded the Village of Niles a \$520,000 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant to continue the work as outlined within the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Plan approved by the Village Board of Trustees in the spring of 2008.

"The community and the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee have worked very hard for over five years now," said Mayor Bob Callero. "We will soon see portions of the beautification plan come to fruition by next summer and with these additional grant funds the project may now continue north as far as Oakton Street."

These funds, combined with the \$475,000 TCSP grant from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, will allow the Village to continue Milwaukee corridor beautification beyond the current project endpoint of Neva Avenue that is planned to be completed June 2010.

The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) is a competitive federally funded program designed to improve the quality of life in Illinois by promoting alternative transportation through streetscape and beautification projects. The Federal funds from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky are through a Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Project grant designed to implement strategies which improve the efficiency of transportation systems and reduce environmental impacts of transportation.

This is the second ITEP grant awarded to the Village of Niles. To date, the Village has been awarded over \$1.8 million toward the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Plan.

Milwaukee Ave. Streetscape Project Update

Posted on 10/28/2009 10:46:14 AM
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study



The Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Plan and initial capital improvements unanimously approved by the Village Board in March of 2008 for the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor is currently under construction. This beautification work, paid for through an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant, is tied to the Milwaukee Avenue road and watermain reconstruction project also underway (see "[road construction updates](#)").

The following delays have occurred with the project as a whole:

1. Nicor failed to locate a 4" gas main causing a road closure and repair delay when the gas main was hit by the contractor; and
2. Two underground storage tanks were found during construction causing delays for proper environmental remediation by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Village was informed that the most difficult work related to the reconstruction project has passed. The reconstruction and beautification project will continue as long as possible this season. Although the project will most likely not be completed until June 2010, all lanes on Milwaukee Avenue will be open during the winter months.

The following streetscape work is planned for completion in June 2010:

- Painting of street light poles black from Albion Avenue to Neva Avenue;
- Improvement of crosswalk and intersection lights at Harts Road and Milwaukee Avenue;
- Enhancements at the Veterans Memorial Water Fall Plaza;
- Crosswalk improvements and intersection lights at Milwaukee/Touhy and Milwaukee/Waukegan;
- Pedestrian lights and enhancements at the corners of Milwaukee/Touhy and Milwaukee/Waukegan;
- New sidewalk from Albion Avenue to Neva Avenue;

The next phase (Phase II) of the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Project has received a \$475,000 boost from the Office of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Project earmarked for projects such as this. The Village hopes to combine these grant funds with additional Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program funds.

Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Plan Approved

Posted on 3/28/2008 1:10:21 PM
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study



On Tuesday, March 25th 2008, the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee presented the recommended beautification plan from Albion to Monroe and the initial improvements to be funded by the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Grant. Click [HERE](#) to see presentation.

Click [HERE](#) to read the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee chair's letter to the Village Board.

The Village Board approved the plan and **initial improvements** unanimously. Smith Engineering will now move forward with contract plans for the following beautification with an estimated construction start date of May 2009:

1. Painting of street light poles black from Albion Avenue to Monroe Street;
2. Improvement of the crosswalk at Harts Road and Milwaukee Avenue;
3. Enhancements at the Veterans Memorial Water Fall Plaza to match recommended features used throughout the plan; and
4. Intersection improvement at Milwaukee/Touhy and Milwaukee/Waukegan.



MILWAUKEE AVENUE STREETScape PLAN

(PHASE I - ALBION TO MONROE):

- View Sheet 6 of 6 [Oakton Street to Monroe Street](#)
- View Sheet 5 of 6 [Jonquil Terrace to Jewel/Jerry's Crosswalk](#)
- View Sheet 4 of 6 [Jarvis Avenue to Howard Street](#)
- View Sheet 3 of 6 [Newark Avenue to Neva Avenue](#)
- View Sheet 2 of 6 [St. Adalbert Entrance to 7035 Milwaukee Avenue](#)
- View Sheet 1 of 6 [Albion Avenue to 6839 Milwaukee Avenue](#)
- View [Milwaukee Avenue and Oakton Intersection](#)
- View [Milwaukee and Harlem/Howard Intersection](#)
- View [Milwaukee Avenue and Touhy Avenue/Waukegan Intersection](#)
- [Decorative Streetscape Elements and Furniture](#)
- See a [Before and After](#)

Milwaukee Avenue Open House Successful

Posted on 3/6/2008 10:47:19 AM
Category: Milwaukee Corridor Study

STREETSCAPE

OPEN HOUSE WELL ATTENDED

Over 54 residents and business owners attend to review plans



It was an informative evening as residents, business owners, elected officials, staff and committee members attended the Milwaukee Avenue Beautification Open House on March 4, 2008. "Overall the open house was well attended, feedback was positive and everyone is eager to see us get started," stated Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Chair Trustee Kim Biederman.

The goal of the open house was to display to the community what the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee has been working on for the past year and to answer questions and note feedback. "It was not easy reaching this point in the process," stated Assistant Village Manager Steven Vinezeano. "Milwaukee Avenue is a five mile stretch of roadway with plenty of obstacles, grant funds are difficult to come by and manage, and everyone has an opinion on how improvements should be made. Timely consensus in a project such as this is crucial for progress."

A final presentation to the Village of Niles Board of Trustees will be conducted at the regular Village Board meeting on March 25, 2008. Construction is planned to begin the first quarter of 2009.

To review what was shown at the open house and to read about the three year history of this project, visit www.vniles.com and under the information link click on [Milwaukee Corridor Study](#).



Committee Chair Trustee Kim Biederman reviews the plans with Committee member Mike Shields and Engineer Akram Chaudhry



Committee member Trustee Louella Preston helps to describe the project to residents with Engineer Jeff Pisha



Trustee Bob Callero asks questions about the plan



Residents receive a briefing on the project



Village Project Manager Steven Vinezeano answers questions for Amici Ristorante owner Mike Zimmerman



Smith Engineering's Landscape Architect Phil Stuepfert assists a Niles resident with some questions

Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Public Open House

Posted on 2/12/2008 4:00:55 PM

MILWAUKEE AVENUE STREETScape PLAN

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at Village Hall Council Chambers



The Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee invites you to see their beautification vision for Milwaukee Avenue at a Public Open House on Tuesday March 4, 2008 between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall council chambers. This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to see first hand how planned streetscape elements will help to revitalize the Milwaukee Avenue corridor.

The overall goal of the committee is to enhance the corridor's character, pedestrian safety, and commercial viability **without negatively impacting existing businesses**. Some key project points:

There will be varying degrees of beautification elements utilized along the Milwaukee corridor. The initial phase of the beautification project will focus on major intersections such as Milwaukee and Touhy, which overlaps a grant funded reconstruction project.

Initial construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2009.

Unless additional parking is established along the corridor or properties are redeveloped by property owners, no existing parking or driveway configurations will be disturbed.

We encourage everyone to drop in at the open house to review and discuss the project with committee members.

MILWAUKEE AVENUE STREETScape PLAN (PHASE I - ALBION TO MONROE):

- ◊ View Sheet 6 of 6 [Oakton Street to Monroe Street](#)
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TYPICAL 8' WALK ELEVATION