

# Cermak Road-Blue Island Avenue Sustainable Streetscape

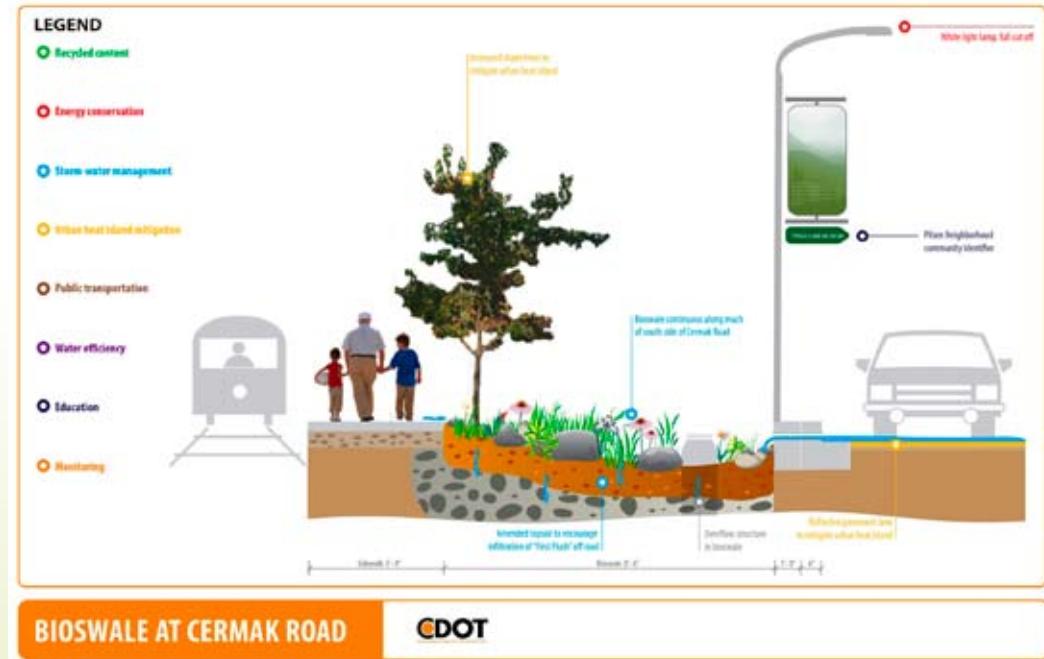
The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is building the city's first "sustainable streetscape" along Cermak Road and Blue Island Avenue, from Halsted Street to Wolcott Avenue.

The project will use several environmentally friendly techniques in its design and construction—techniques commonly associated with LEED-certified buildings but not typical in streetscape projects.

The 1.5-mile-long streetscape will include new sidewalk and roadway surfaces, street trees and landscaped planters, roadway and pedestrian lighting, and light pole and free standing community identifier elements. These enhancements are part of a comprehensive street-scaping project designed by the City of Chicago Department of Transportation in close cooperation with community representatives and your alderman.

In addition, this project will create one of the most environmentally friendly stretches of roadway in Chicago, including sustainable features such as:

- Recycled content—Recycle at least 90 percent of construction waste, and specify new materials with at least 10 percent recycled content
- Energy conservation—reduce energy use below the typical streetscape baseline; use reflective surfaces on



sidewalks and roadways; use dark-sky-friendly light fixtures

- Stormwater management—Divert 80 percent of the typical average annual rainfall from the storm sewer system through use of pervious pavements, bioswales and infiltration planters.
- Urban heat island mitigation—reduce ambient summer temperatures on streets and sidewalks through use of reflective pavements on roadways, light-colored sidewalks and trees for shading
- Alternative transportation— provide new ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps, improve bus stops with signage, lighting; add bike lanes along Blue Island and bike racks throughout project
- Water efficiency—eliminate potable water sources for irrigation; use native or climate-adapted, drought-tolerant plants for all landscaping
- Education—through community identifiers and self-guided tour brochures highlight innovative, sustainable features of streetscape
- Monitoring—CDOT will partner with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to monitor the project and measure its environmental impacts.

The project is the latest example of Mayor Richard M. Daley's efforts to make Chicago one of the "greenest" cities in the country.

# Project schedule

## Phase I

North side of Cermak Rd. between Ashland Ave. and Loomis St.

Summer 2010

## Phase II

Blue Island Ave. from Wolcott Ave. to Ashland Ave., Plaza located on the northeast corner of Blue Island Ave. and Western Ave.

Fall 2010

## Phase III

North side of Cermak Rd. between Loomis St. and Halsted Ave.

Spring 2011

## Phase IV

South side of Cermak Rd. between Ashland Ave. and Halsted Ave.

Summer 2011



**Street  
Scapes**

## Traffic and parking impacts

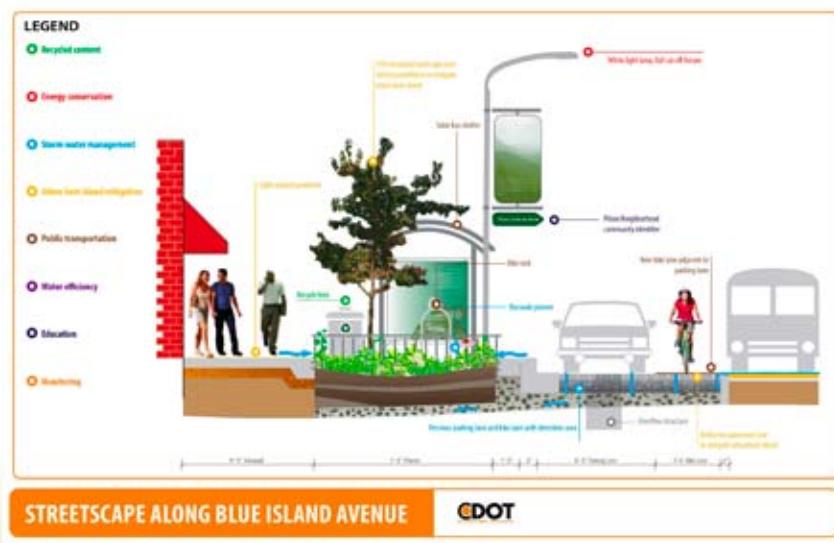
Throughout construction, Cermak Rd. and Blue Island Ave. will remain open to motorists and pedestrians and access to buildings and residences will be maintained. Both Cermak Rd. and Blue Island Ave. will see lane reductions in construction areas, and at least one lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction. In order to keep the street open to traffic, parking will not be allowed in the area of construction. In addition, there will be periodic parking restrictions on some side streets.

The CTA bus routes will not be affected. For more information, please call the CTA information hotline at: (all Chicagoland area codes) 836-7000.

## Business/resident impacts

Access to all businesses and residences will be maintained through the project. As with all large-scale projects, CDOT's goal is to minimize the impact of construction on both motorists and the community.

The \$16.6 million project is funded by the City of Chicago, with grant funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Highway Administration. The project also received generous support from ComEd.



For additional information, please call the Department of Transportation at (312) 744-5900 ,  
e-mail [cdotnews@cityofchicago.org](mailto:cdotnews@cityofchicago.org) or visit [www.cityofchicago/Transportation](http://www.cityofchicago/Transportation).



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

Bobby L. Ware, Commissioner  
Division of Project Development  
Streetscape and Sustainable Design Program

**CDOT**  
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION