Executive Summary
The community expressed an overall desire to reduce the difference in streetscape appearance and investment between the north and south sides and east and west sides of the corridor.

Top 5 Takeaways from Public Meeting #2 (Cottage Grove to Prairie)

1. Pedestrian Safety – The community shared concerns about the safety of pedestrians (particularly children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and University of Chicago students and employees). One key theme was to increase the visibility of crosswalks, especially at night using reflective materials. Another key theme was to slow down the speed of cars driving down 61st Street.

2. Transit Accommodations / Infrastructure Elements – The community expressed interest in more investment into the infrastructure of the corridor. The community would like to see better lighting along the corridor as well as more bus shelters and benches. Desire for a better storm water management system, nicer sidewalks, and left-turn signals at key intersections were also expressed. Many members of the community stated that they do not want bump outs, speed bumps, or bikes lanes added to 61st street.

3. Aesthetics – The community expressed a desire to add more greenery and artwork to the west side of the 61st street corridor. Many members of the community stated a preference for trees over planters and the addition of murals on the sides of buildings. Artwork could also be incorporated through the addition of new, tasteful garbage cans.

4. Community Identity – The community shared a feeling of division between the East and West halves of Woodlawn and between the University of Chicago and the community. The community identity efforts should focus on Woodlawn’s rich history with the focus of bringing together the entire community (East Woodlawn, West Woodlawn, and the University of Chicago). The community also stated a preference for recruiting local artists to contribute designs for the artwork and community identity pieces.

5. Other – Some other key areas of concern for the community were the availability of parking and general public safety. Community members expressed a preference not to add any new meter or permit parking. They also expressed a desire for investments related to public safety (e.g., night patrol shifts and StarTel alarm systems).