

# Cook County

## BIKE PLAN



Cook County  
Department of Transportation and Highways

Transportation Committee  
April 2023





# INTRODUCTION

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First-ever county-wide bike plan

Promotes Healthy, Sustainable, and Smart Communities *Policy Roadmap* strategies

Unique role for Transportation and Highways:

- Sister agency to Forest Preserves
- Coordination among jurisdictions
- Invest in Cook program



# BACKGROUND

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Invest in Cook: nearly \$20 million for 99 bike and pedestrian projects to date

County leadership in inter-jurisdictional bike projects, like Skokie Valley Trail and Burnham Multimodal Connector

Partnerships with City of Chicago on several bike studies and projects

Bike Plan refines strategy for how we help communities advance their bike priorities

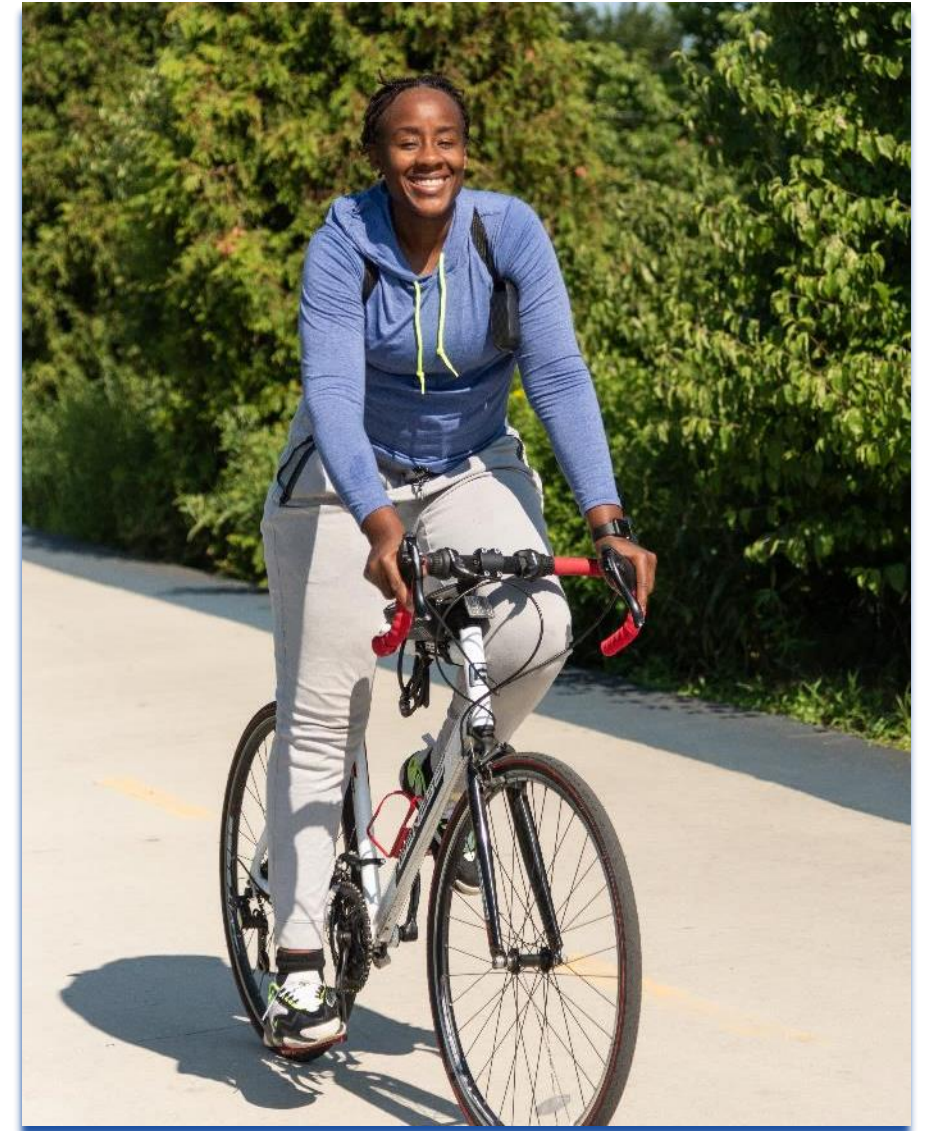
*Rendering of Burnham Multimodal Connector*



# PRINCIPLES

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1. **Increase everyday cycling** by supporting bike commuting and better transit integration;
2. **Create a core low-stress network** of bike trails and bike lanes that appeal to all ages and abilities;
3. **Invest equitably** to make sure bike facilities are distributed to under-served communities.

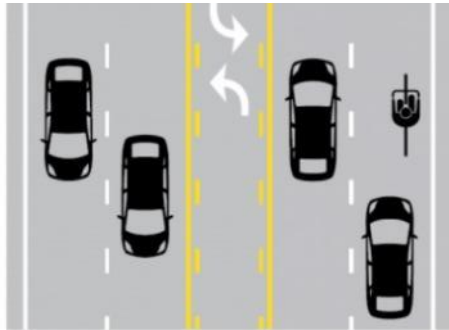




# LOW STRESS NETWORK FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

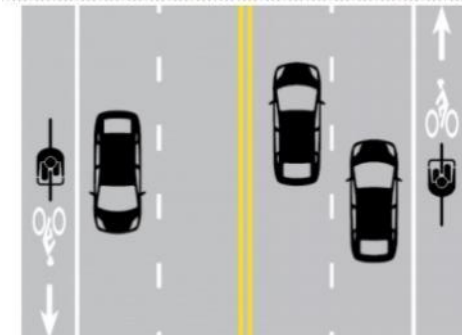
## Very Stressful

No bike lane, busy street



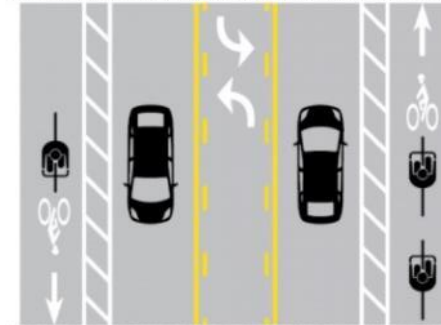
## Stressful

Narrow bike lane or shoulder, busy street



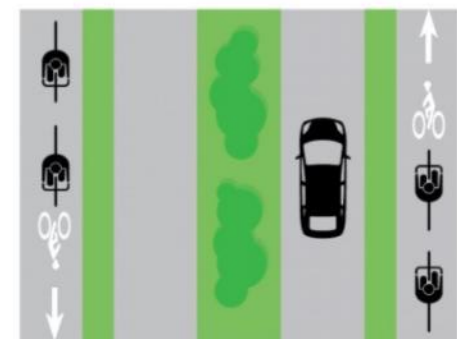
## Less Stressful

Buffered bike lane, calmer street



## Least Stressful

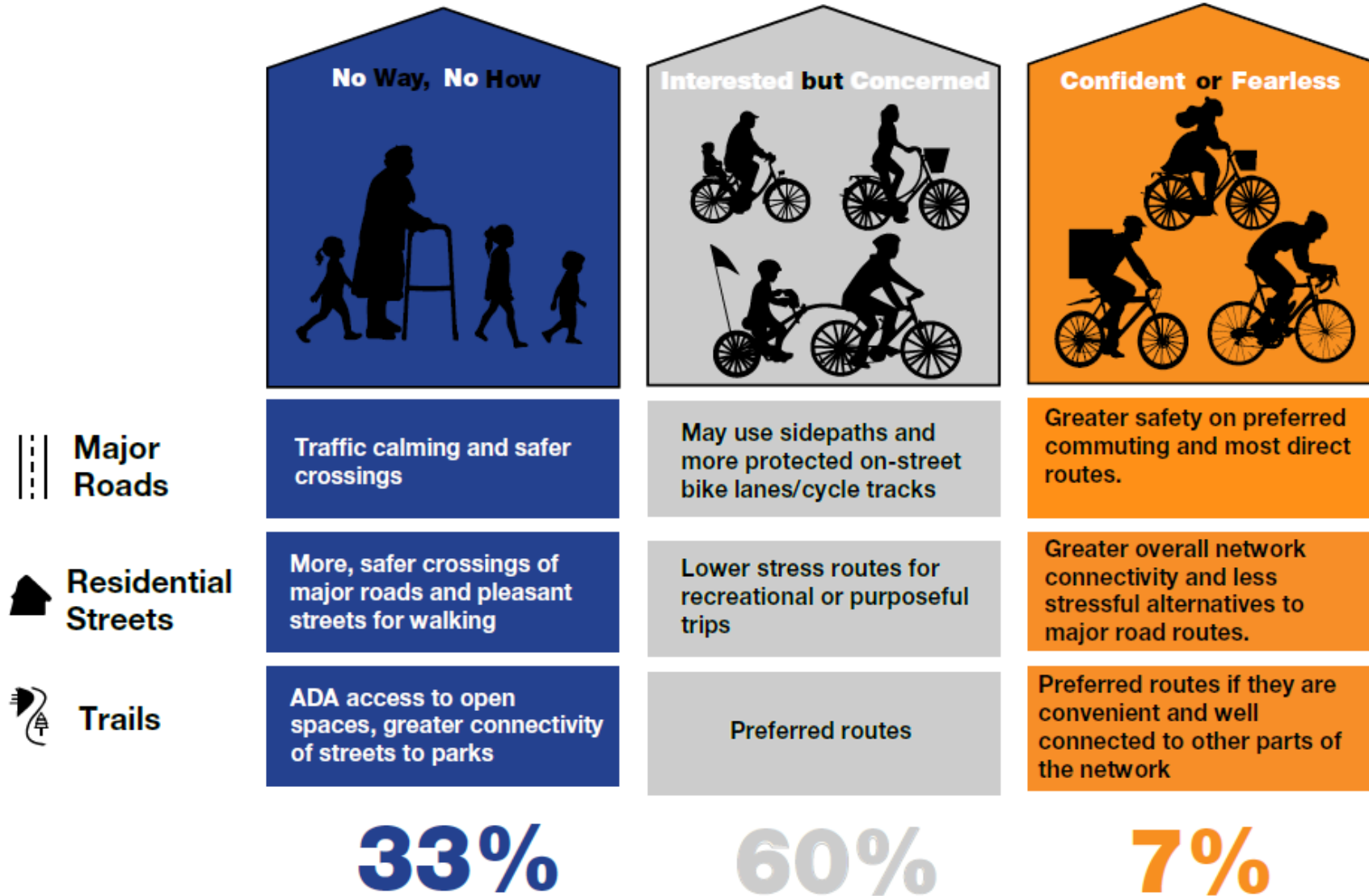
Separated lane or off-street trail, calm streets



Low-stress attracts the most riders for everyday trips



# LOW STRESS NETWORK FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES



# INVESTING EQUITABLY



Bike planning too often based on needs of only most experienced cyclists

Unequal access to trails within 1 mile of home:

- 24% of white residents

- 28% of Asian residents

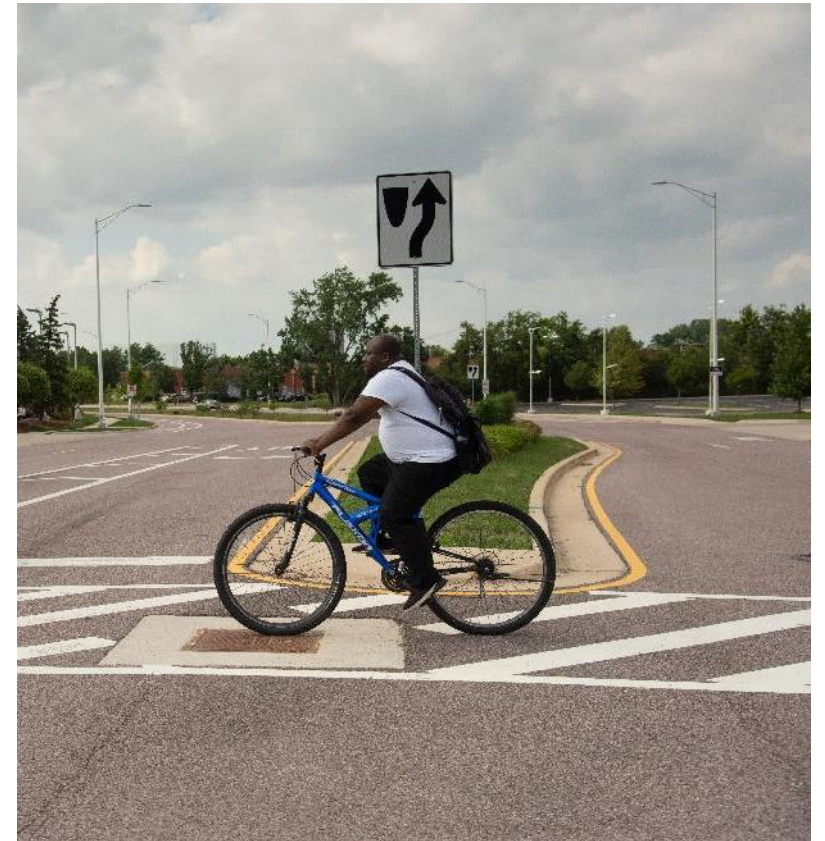
- 14% of Latine residents

- 14% of Black residents

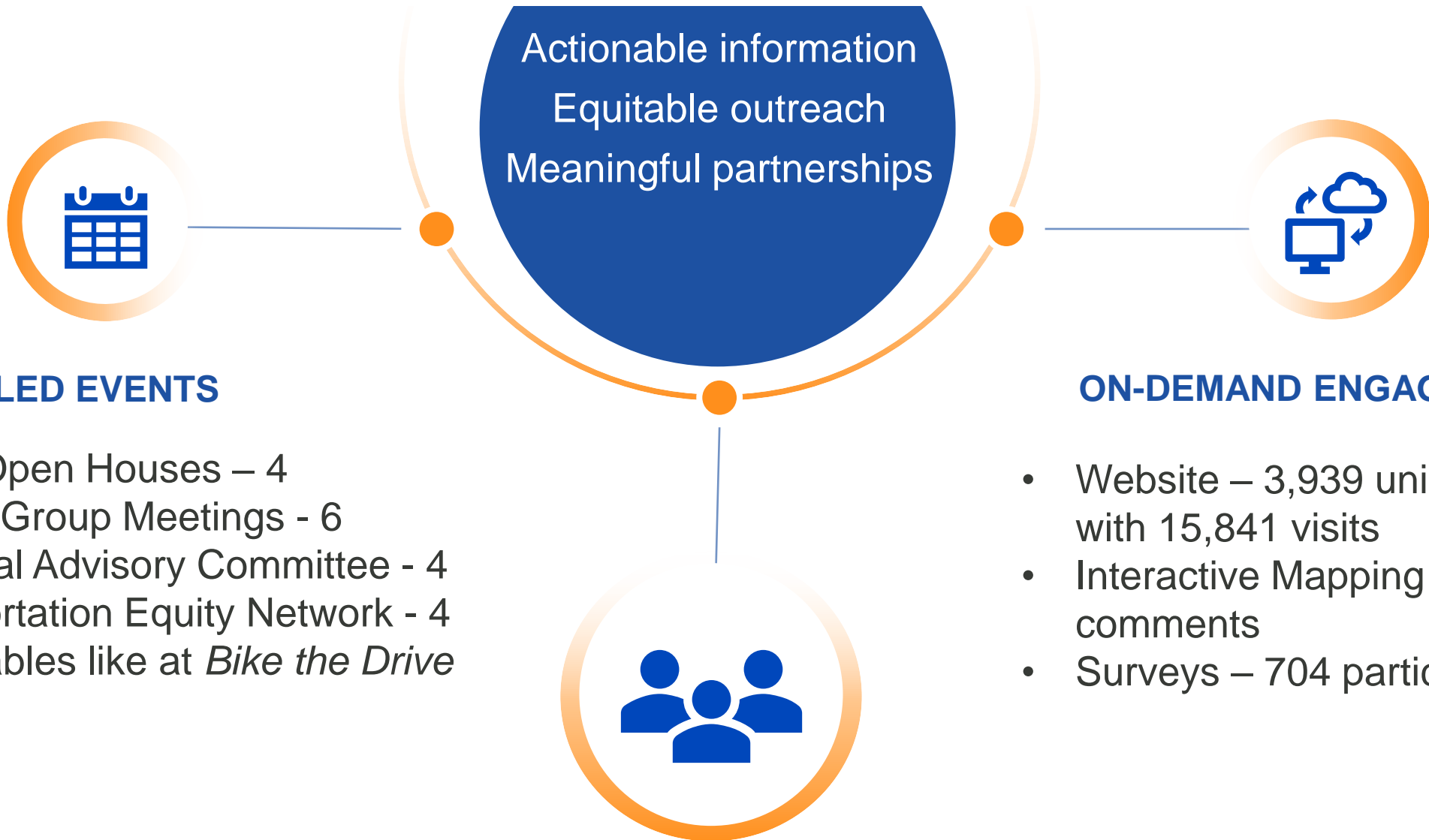
75% of side paths on County roads are in higher-income communities

## Strategies:

Prioritize bike facilities that serve communities of color  
Target underrepresented groups in our outreach



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT







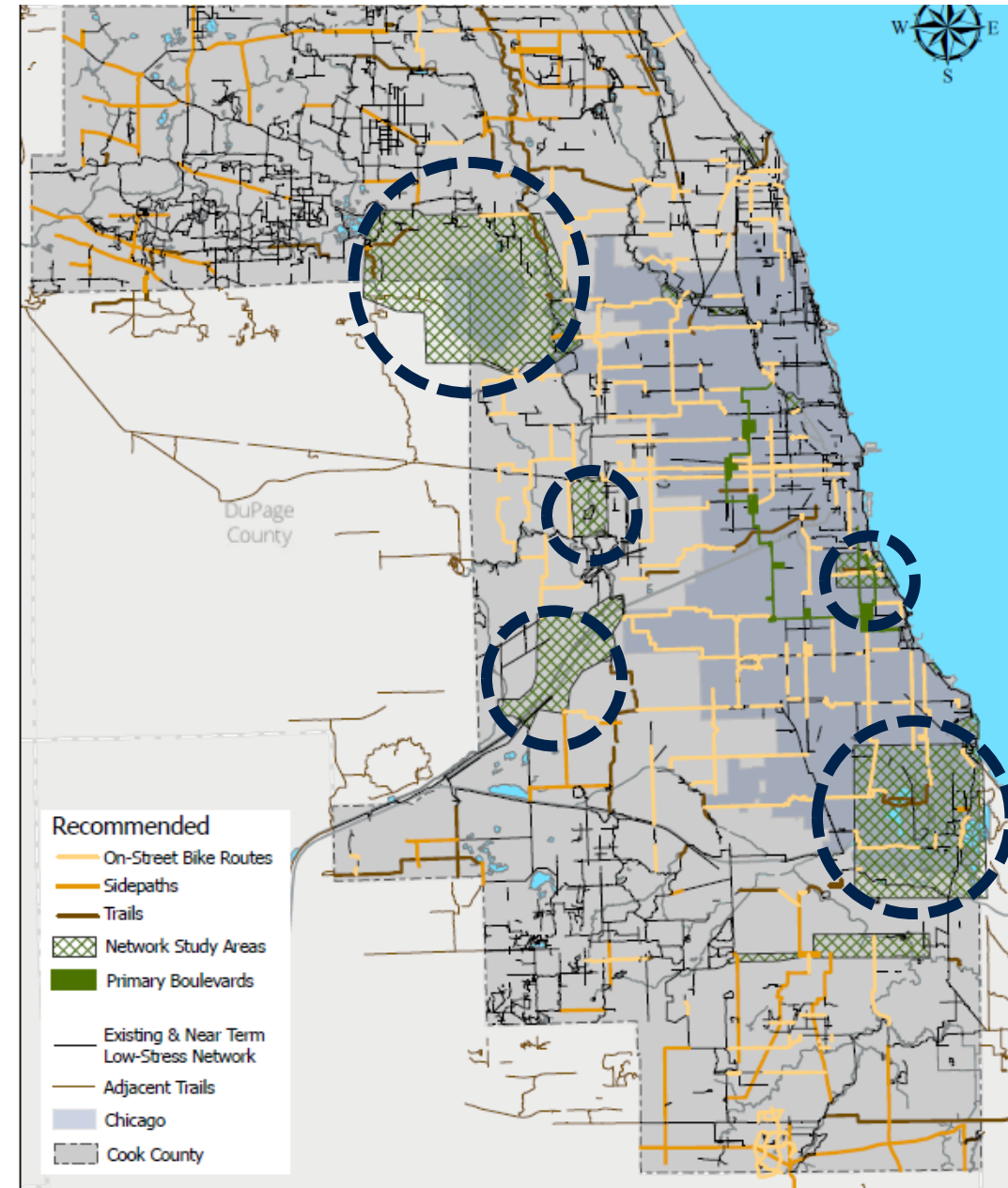
# SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

## CREATING A CORE LOW-STRESS NETWORK

- Make key connections by building bike paths and lanes along DoTH roadways
- Study new trails outside DoTH right-of-way, followed by funding assistance for feasible projects
- Carry out subarea network studies in challenging locations – O’Hare, Lake Calumet, Bronzeville, etc.

## METRICS INCLUDE:

- **Advance 1 – 3 new segment feasibility studies per year, including through Invest in Cook**





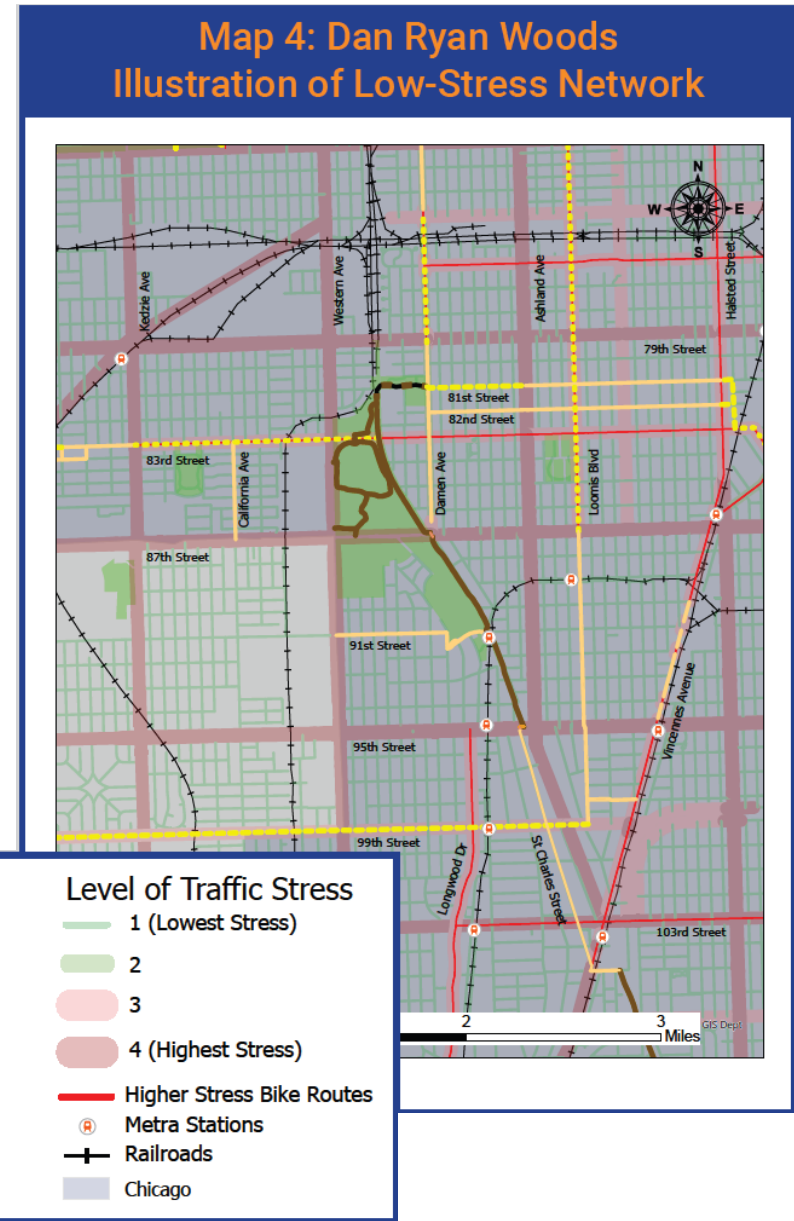
# SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

## SUPPORTING LOCAL BIKE NETWORKS

- Work with municipalities to designate bike routes on comfortable residential streets
- Work with partner agencies to make bike route intersections with major roads safer
- Tie together on-street and off-street networks
- Pioneer new models for long-term maintenance

## METRICS INCLUDE:

- **Construct at least 15 miles of sidepath on DoTH right-of-way over the next ten years.**





# SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

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## INTEGRATING TRANSIT AND BICYCLING

- Work with partners to expand bike share beyond Chicago
- Work with partners to ensure infrastructure at and near transit stations supports biking

## IMPROVING DATA AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY

- Begin regional bike count program
- Continue to document growing bike network

## METRICS INCLUDE:

- **Implement a county-wide bike counting program starting in 2025.**





**Thank you!**