

Village of Downers Grove TCD3  
**TCD3 – Initial Community Workshop – Brief Summary**  
March 4, 2009

The TCD3 Initial Community Workshop was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Downers Grove South High School at 7pm. The workshop was attended by approximately ninety (90) Village residents and leaders. The workshop was held to begin the TCD3 community dialogue and outreach process and was designed to allow residents the opportunity to identify and discuss issues, concerns, and priorities facing the Downers Grove community. The workshop began with an overview of the TCD3 process and a brief overview of some of the feedback obtained to date from the interactive TCD3 Project Website. This brief Summary Report is intended to serve as an overview of the comments and feedback provided by participants during the workshop. A detailed tabulation of community responses is provided in a separate document.

When asked to identify the issues confronting Downers Grove, workshop participants crafted a list of approximately 350 issues covering a myriad of topics. The list of more than 350 identified issues can be grouped into the following 7 topical categories; (a) Infrastructure; (b) Economic Development; (c) Residential; (d) Public Services and Facilities; (e) Parks and Recreation; (f) Education; and, (g) Financial. Below is a list of the top four issues cited by workshop participants.

- Stormwater management issues (i.e. flooding, flood control, management , retention/detention areas, policies, drainage, control, storm sewers, capital projects) were cited by 29 participants.
- Roads and streets issues (i.e. repair, maintenance, repaving, potholes, gutters) was cited by 26 participants.
- Downtown issues (mix of uses, empty storefronts, mixed incomes, grocery store , parking, geographic size, bicycle parking) were cited by 25 participants.
- Traffic issues (control, calming, congestion & volume, planning for future, monitoring flow patterns) were cited by 20 participants.

Participants were then asked to rank their top three issues based on the large number of issues previously identified to provide a measure of focus. The top four issues identified were as follows:

- Stormwater/Flooding
- School or Education Funding/Enhancement/Maintain Quality of
- Neighborhood Character/Home Size/Teardowns/Zoning Limiting Size of New Homes
- Village Budget/Revenue/Finance/Eroding Tax Base

When asked to identify specific projects or actions that the community would like to see undertaken within Downers Grove, responses were mixed with only a few items receiving a significant number of nominations. Specific projects listed included pothole and street surface repair and the construction of an overpass, underpass, or some other railroad crossing improvement aimed at improving rail crossing safety and convenience. Participants also indicated a need for additional parking in Downtown Downers Grove.

Community workshop participants were also asked what they believed to be the primary strengths and assets of Downers Grove. The schools and education system of Downers Grove were the strengths/assets most commonly cited by residents of Downers Grove. The people that make-up the Village of Downers Grove community were also identified as a primary strength by a significant number of participants.

Finally, community workshop participants were asked to identify what they perceived to be the major obstacles or barriers facing the Village of Downers Grove that may prevent or hinder it from achieving its objectives. Community members identified money/financing to be the Village's biggest obstacle. Participants also identified the related issues of a decreasing or eroding tax base, comprised of a decreasing number of businesses, as a major barrier confronting Downers Grove.