



Steering Committee Meeting #2 Summary

August 28, 2025 | Morton Grove Village Hall

The second Steering Committee meeting for the Dempster Corridor Plan took place on August 28, 2025, at 7pm at Village Hall. Participants included members of the project Steering Committee, Village staff, representatives from Pace and RTA, and the project consulting team, led by Teska Associates with TYLin and Egret & Ox Planning.

Attending:

Steering Committee members:

- Janine Witko, Mayor
- Connie Travis, Village Trustee
- Therese Polyak, Community Relations Commission
- Matthew Ingram, Appearance Commission Chair
- Mike Stein, Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Chair
- Chris Kintner, Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Chair
- Georgianne Brunner, Environmental & Natural Resources Chair
- Casey Brazeal, Pace Bus
- Kyle Sussman, Pace Bus
- Megan Miller, Metra

Village and RTA Staff:

- Brandon Nolin, Community Development Administrator, Village of Morton Grove
- Anne Kirchner, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Village of Morton Grove
- Terry Liston, Corporation Counsel, Village of Morton Grove
- Chuck Meyer, Village Administrator, Village of Morton Grove
- Alex Waltz, Principal Planner, RTA

Consultant team members:

- Scott Goldstein, President, Teska Associates, Inc.
- Francie Lawrence, Associate Principal, Teska Associates, Inc.
- Mark Bennett, Senior Planner/Urban Designer, TYLin
- Todd Vanadilok, Principal Planner, Egret & Ox Planning

After approving the minutes from Committee Meeting #1, Francie Lawrence from Teska Associates kicked off the meeting with an update on the planning process and engagement activities conducted to date. PlanDempster.org continues to see traffic, with over 4,200 site views, 415 site subscribers, and over 200 contributions on the comment map and ideas wall. In-person outreach has included the first community workshop on June 25th (summarized here) and two pop-up events at the July 3rd Morton Grove Days and August 5th National Night Out. The planning team will host a third pop-up on September 13th at the Village Sustainability Expo. Finally, the Village partnered with Pace to feature a printed poster (pictured below) on 100 buses that circulate through Dempster.

DEMPSTER CORRIDOR PLAN

WHERE COMMUNITY MEETS COMMERCE

DINE ON DEMPSTER IN MORTON GROVE!

Morton Grove's Dempster Street is home to an eclectic mix of dozens of restaurants. Hop on Route 250 or the Pulse Dempster Line to enjoy falafel and sushi, steaks and gyros, Korean BBQ and fine Italian, and much more!



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WHERE COMMUNITY MEETS COMMERCE

Dempster Street isn't just a great place to grab a bite. It's where Morton Grove shops, rides, and connects.

Visit PlanDempster.org to learn more about our planning process and give your input!



Francie then shared select highlights from the community survey summary ([full summary here](#)). Launched at the June 25th community workshop and open for six weeks, the survey collected a total of 348 responses. Key themes and findings from the results include a common desire for:

- More points of interest that invite you to stop and stay
- Safe, walkable streets
- Fill in gaps for more bustling and vibrant place
- Better connections and less traffic congestion for all modes of transportation

Todd Vanadilok, Mark Bennett, and Scott Goldstein then presented highlights from the Existing Conditions Report which analyzed important land use, transportation, and economic development data for the study area ([pages 22 to 55 of the presentation](#)).

Community engagement and analysis of existing conditions provide the foundation for developing a vision, goals, and recommendations for the Dempster Corridor. The planning team presented the preliminary draft plan goals for feedback and discussion. The goals can be found on pages 56 to 68 of the [presentation](#), and comments from the Committee are described below.

Committee Discussion on Draft Goals:

- Q: What is meant by “space for entrepreneurs and small businesses?” A: Small spaces for lower rents where people trying to start a business can test the model and, if successful, find larger space. Examples for restaurants include cloud kitchens or food halls.
- Plan should be transformative – goals should reflect the need for more modern spaces, not just reusing existing buildings that may be outdated.
- Q: What does “compact” mixed use mean? A: This term was used partly to reflect Dempster’s shallow lots and recognize the need for creative site design for future development.
- Add an objective about interconnectivity between Metra and Dempster / Pace Pulse

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WHERE COMMUNITY MEETS COMMERCE

- Plan recommendations should connect more directly to engagement survey results.
- Pace is interested in identifying ways to improve the 6- lane to 4-lane transition on Dempster to improve bus movements and crossing gaps – anything that can improve the pedestrian environment can also increase bus ridership
 - Also include simple mentions of how to use transit– e.g. how to use Ventra and mobile tap-to-pay on buses
- Will the plan consider costs and funding opportunities? Yes, the implementation section will get into this but at this stage we are brainstorming all possibilities (don't let costs interfere with visioning).

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 7pm at Village Hall. In the meantime, Committee members are encouraged to review and provide feedback on the survey summary and draft goals, and to continue to promote the project and online idea-sharing tools among their networks.