

GUNNISON STREET

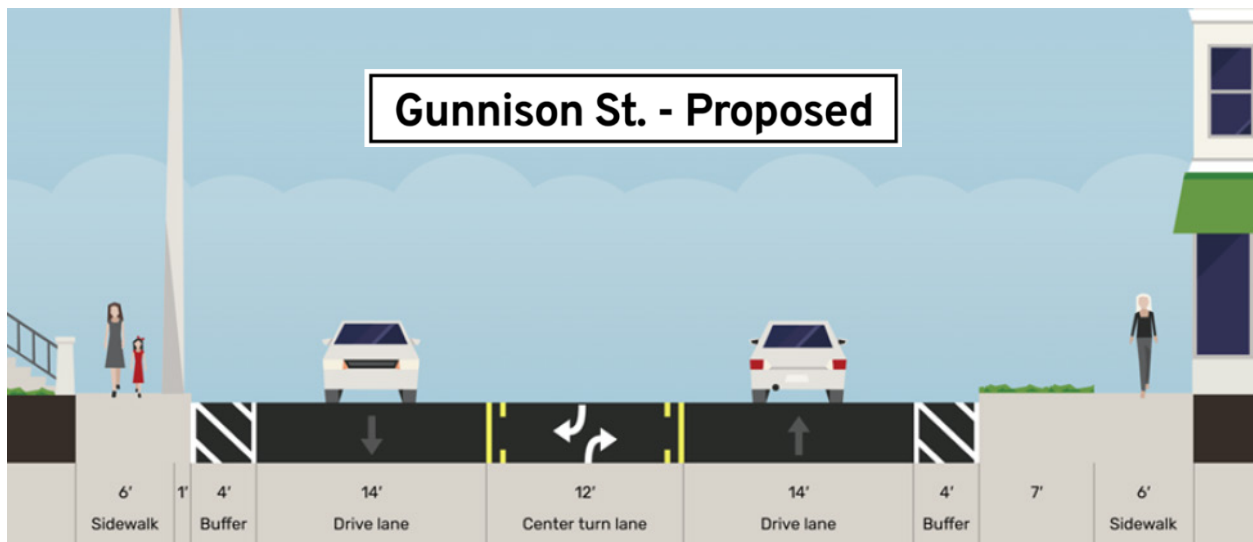
IL 43 TO NAGLE AVE

NEWSLETTER

Public Meeting Summary

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) thanks you for your attendance at the April 29, 2025, Public Meeting on the Department's proposed safety improvements along Gunnison St from IL 43 to Nagle Ave in the Village of Harwood Heights, Cook County. The comments have become a part of the official public meeting record and were used to refine the proposed improvements. A total of 23 residents attended the meeting, and 10 comments were received during the comment period that lasted through May 31, 2025.

As many comments concerned similar issues, this newsletter has been prepared to address your concerns as well as provide you with an overview of topics. Public Meeting exhibits and documents can be found on the project website on the following link [Cook County - Gunnison Street Study](#) or by searching the Department's website with the key words Gunnison St.



What can be done to reduce speeds along the corridor?

The lane reallocation will provide more **consistent speeds** and a 25% reduction in conflict points between vehicles and pedestrians. Additionally, a speed study has been requested and will be completed by the Department. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), these safety strategies have shown average operating speed reductions of at least 3-5 mph and a perceivable reduction in operating speed differentials (the difference in speed between two vehicles next to each other) which leads to reductions in rear end crashes and better adherence to posted speed limits.



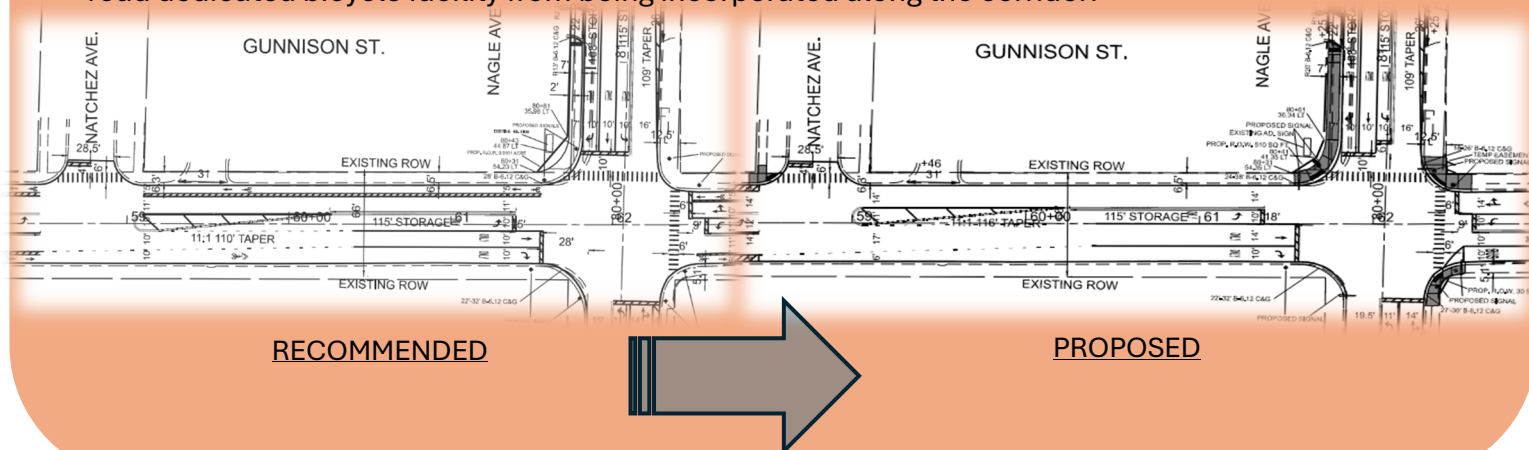
Traffic Queues at Fuller's Car Wash

The Department received several concerns regarding traffic coming in and out of the Fuller's car wash located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Gunnison St at Nagle Ave. However, the Department does not have a way to control how many patrons visit the business or stop them from queuing beyond the Natchez Ave entrance which is outside of the Department's jurisdiction. Closing Natchez Ave to stop the vehicle queues on Natchez Ave from spilling into Gunnison St is not advisable as it would negatively impact the Daniel Beard Elementary School and residents along Natchez Ave. We recommend residents reach out and work with the Village of Harwood Heights to address the concern of vehicles on their road spilling over onto other streets causing concerns. To address vehicles turning northbound at Nagle Ave north of the intersection turning left into the carwash and creating queues onto the intersection; the exit driveway from the carwash at Nagle will be designed to deter vehicles from turning left permanently and instead require them to turn right going southbound only.



Bike Lane Accommodations

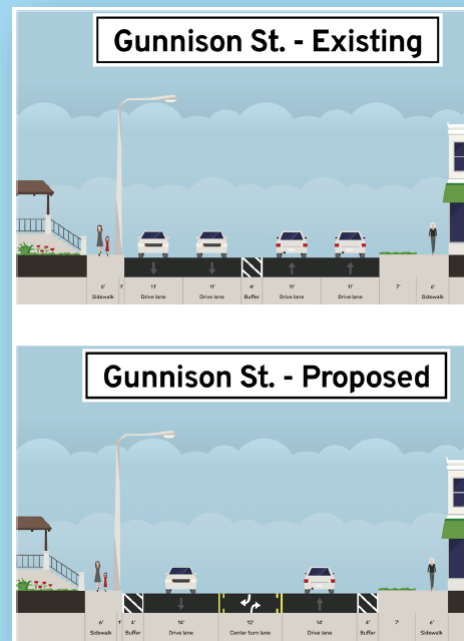
The Department received requests for bike lanes to be incorporated into the project scope. As part of the Department's planning efforts, a buffered on-street bicycle lane facility was recommended by the Department but ultimately not supported and declined by the Village of Harwood Heights. As such, the Department has incorporated wider outside lanes and striped shoulders that can be utilized by experienced bicyclists. The proposed improvements have been designed to not preclude a future on-road dedicated bicycle facility from being incorporated along the corridor.





Vehicle Capacity Concerns

The Department received several comments regarding vehicles backing up due to the loss of a travel lane. Gunnison St is classified as a minor arterial. In general, 4-lane highways typically accommodate average daily traffic ranges of 18,000 to 36,000 vehicles per day while 3-lane highways typically effectively accommodate traffic with 8,500 to 17,500 vehicles per day. The existing 4 lane corridor of Gunnison St has an average daily traffic of 14,500 vehicles per day; **well under the capacity needs of the current roadway** configuration which leads vehicles to exceed posted speed limits and higher incidence of crashes.



Bus Turnouts and Refuge Islands

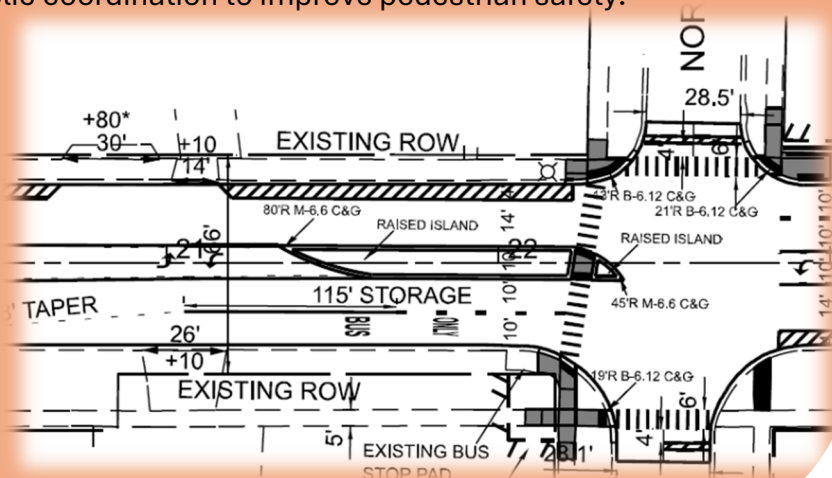
The Department received concerns over increased likelihood of rear-impact collisions at bus stops and requests for bus turnouts. Thru extensive coordination with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) the Department was able to reconfigure the roadway space to allow bus only turnouts at the various transit stops along the Gunnison St corridor. Refuge islands were considered as part of the proposed improvements, but several were in conflict with vehicular turning movements at the intersections, creating safety issues for both vehicular traffic and pedestrians at the refuge islands. However, the Department was able to incorporate refuge islands at two intersections: Sayre/Nordica Avenue and Oak Park Avenue. Some stops along the corridor that created safety crossing issues were removed and consolidated as part of the CTA and public coordination to improve pedestrian safety.

Improved CTA stops:

- Mont Clare Ave
- Nordica Ave
- New England Ave
- Oak Park Ave,
- Natoma Ave
- Nagle Ave.

Removed CTA stops:

- Neenah Ave
- Rutherford Ave



GUNNISON STREET

IL 43 TO NAGLE AVE



Schedule



This improvement is included in the Department's FY 2026-2031 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the early years of the multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through future annual legislative appropriations.

Contact Us

Mail:

Illinois Department of Transportation

Bureau of Programming, 4th Floor

Attn: Amruta Mate

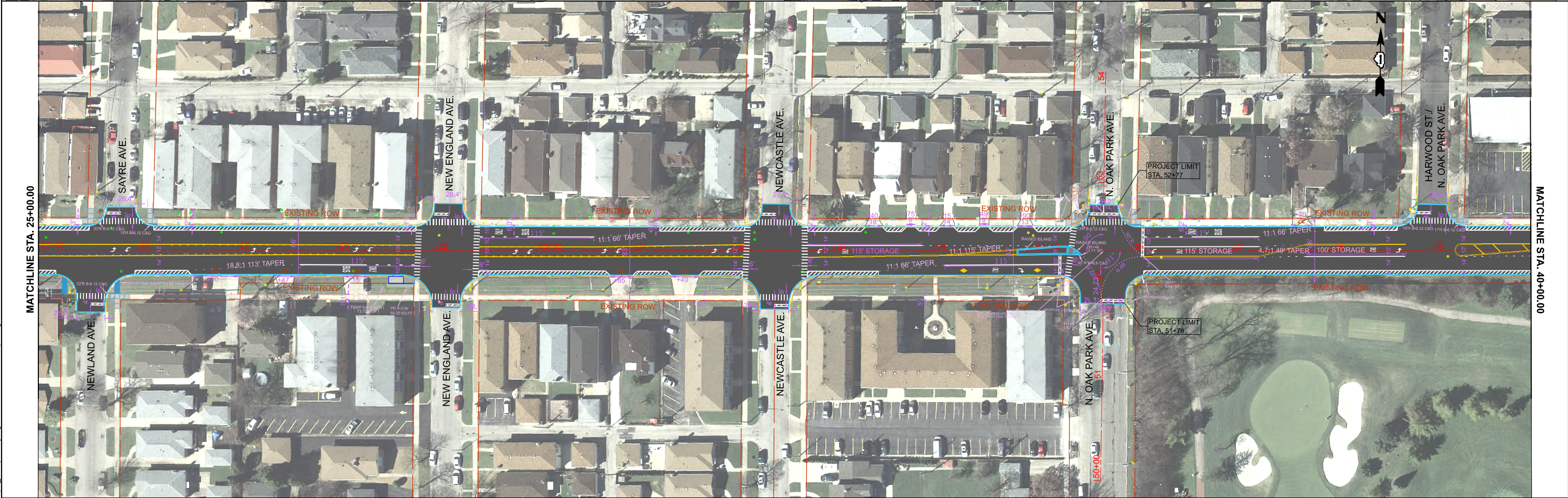
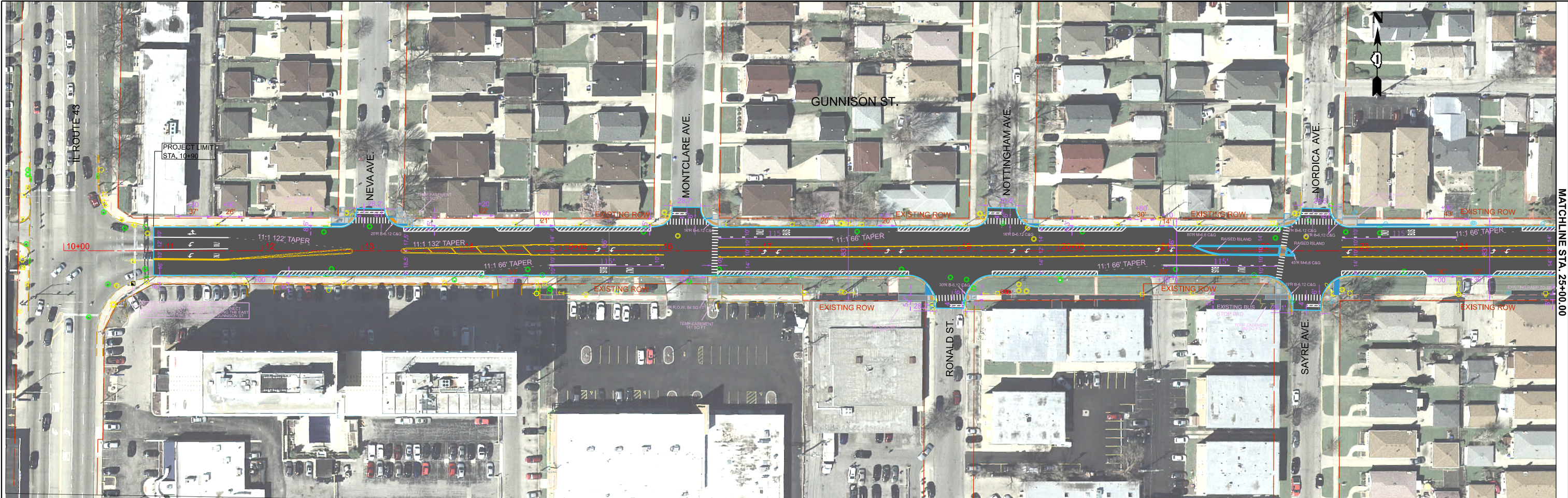
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Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

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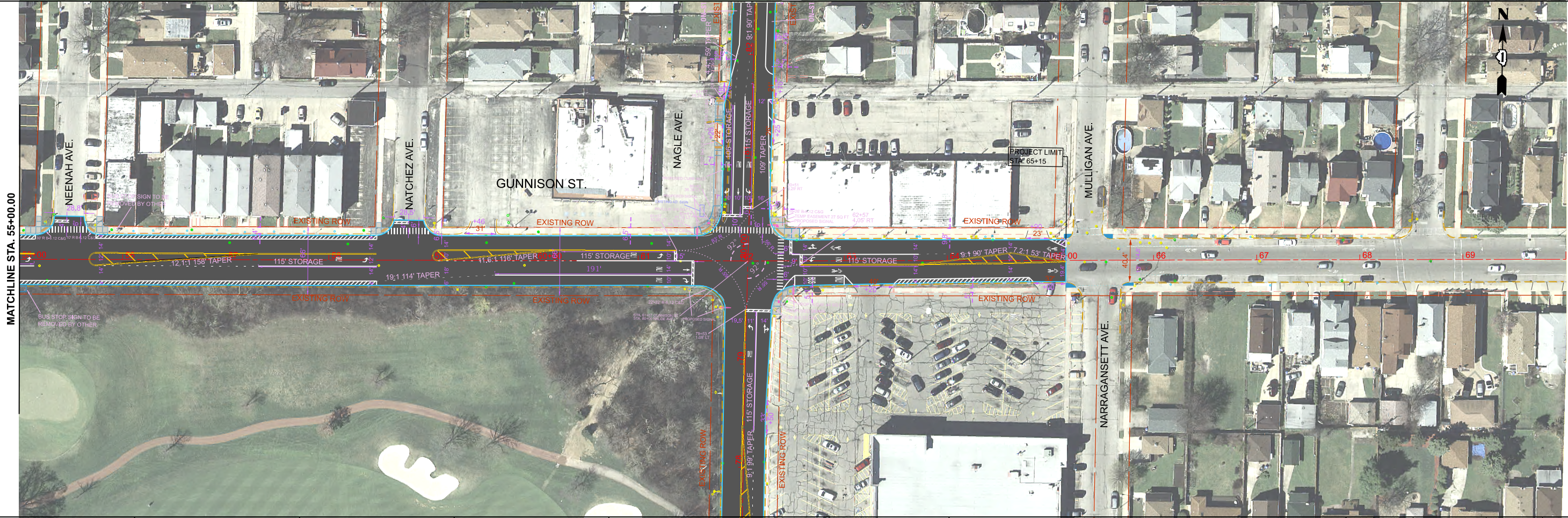
STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROADWAY PLAN				
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ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				

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MATCHLINE STA. 55+00.00



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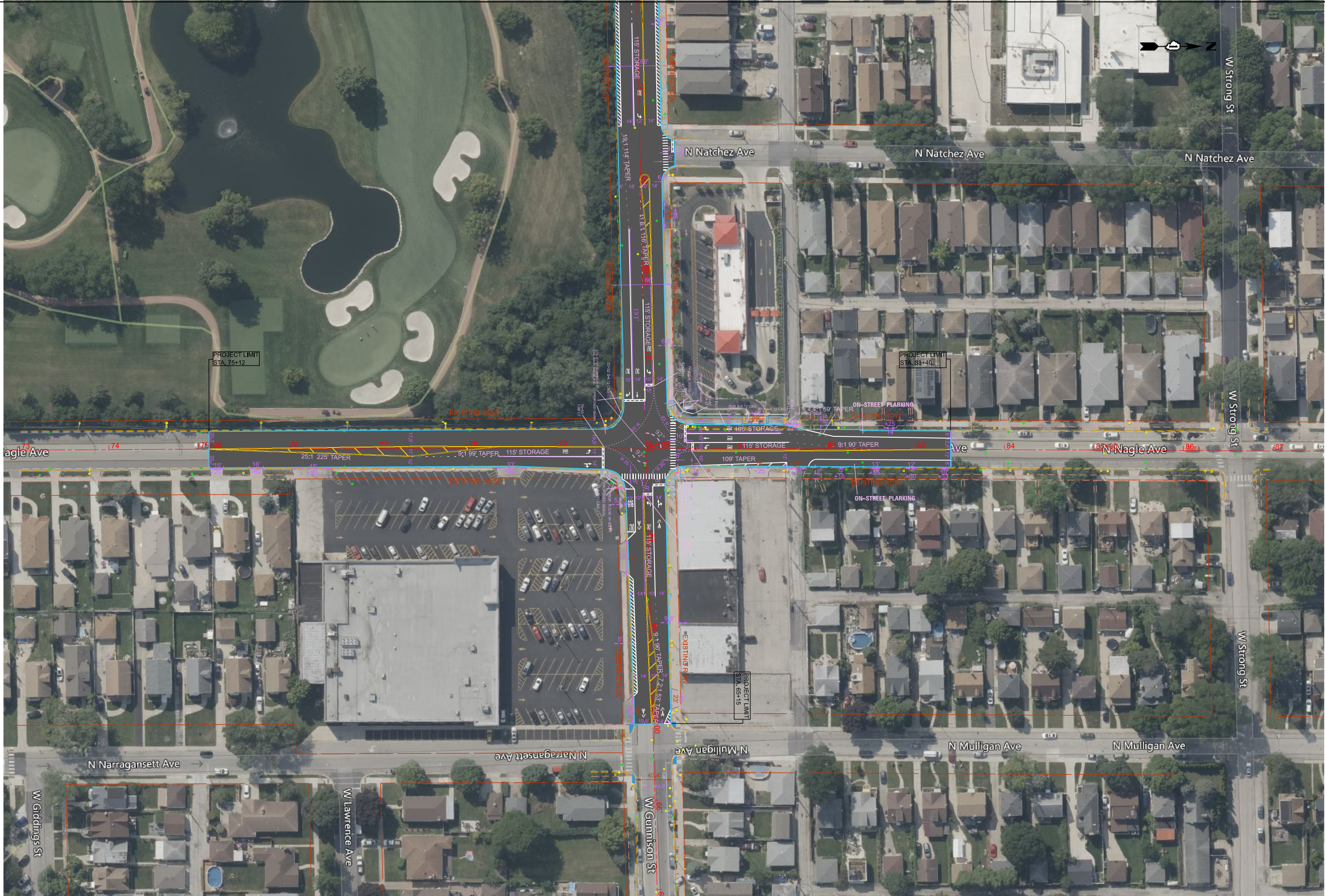
STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROADWAY PLAN
GUNNISON ST. (IL. ROUTE 43 - NAGLE AVE.)

SCALE: 1"=50'

SHEET 2 OF 3 SHEETS STA. 40+00.00 TO STA. 70+00.00

F.A.U. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
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STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROADWAY PLAN
GUNNISON ST. (IL. ROUTE 43 - NAGLE AVE.)

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F.A.U RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
1363		COOK		0003
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				