



150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet IL 60432

Media Release

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### **PUBLIC FORUM FOR THE CHICAGO STREET CORRIDOR PLAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018**

The public is invited to the Public Forum for the Chicago Street Corridor Plan to be held in the Caterpillar Auditorium on the lower level of the Joliet Area Historical Museum from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. There will be a brief presentation by the project consultant, Gingko Planning & Design, Inc., as well as an opportunity for residents and businesses to view and offer feedback on the two major components of the Plan: the conceptual design plans for the re-design of Chicago Street between Ruby Street and Washington Street, and a new plaza/square located across from the Rialto Square Theatre. The project consultant and City staff will be available to answer questions.

Chicago Street is one of our region's most beautiful historic streets and is part of the famous Route 66. While the uses along the street have changed through the years, this classic street has never lost its beautiful urban scale. Unfortunately, the current streetscape is approximately four decades old and in need of an update to accommodate current and future businesses and residents. The proposed streetscape concept calls for realignment and straightening of the street, additional on-street parking spaces, landscape planters, space for outdoor dining, updated lighting, new directional signage and gateway public art at key intersections. Key elements of the design for the new plaza/square include a large green space, flexible stage/raised seating platform, "red carpet" pavement connecting the plaza/square to the Rialto Square Theatre, a library garden which includes a storyteller's corner, a water feature, unique lighting, seating nooks, and space for future large-scale public art. The new plaza/square will become the centerpiece of Downtown Joliet, attracting visitors and serving residents for decades to come.

The planning and re-design process for a revamped Chicago Street in Downtown Joliet began in early 2017 and the first and current phase, the Conceptual Design Phase, is scheduled for completion by May 31, 2018. Future phases for this project include the Design Development Phase and Construction Document/Bid/Construction Phase. The future project phases will provide more detailed specifications and costs, for a likely phased approach to construction over multiple years.

For more information contact Mike Schwarz, Planning Director, at 815-724-4050 or visit the "Chicago Street Corridor Plan" project web page at [www.cityofjoliet.info](http://www.cityofjoliet.info).

**Media Inquiries:**

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**City Manager**

The City of Joliet is the third largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 149,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.cityofjoliet.info](http://www.cityofjoliet.info) or call 815-724-4000. The City of Joliet's Media Releases are always available on our website.