ELEVATED CHICAGO’S 2020 POLICY PRIORITIES

Founded in 2017, Elevated Chicago is a collaborative of organizations using transit-oriented development (TOD) to drive racially equitable outcomes in health, climate resilience, and arts and culture in Chicago’s neighborhoods. We are working to transform not only what we build in communities but also how we build it.

Elevated Chicago centers people, places and process in our advocacy for equitable development. We believe that people should be involved early and often in the decisions that impact their communities, that public investment should prioritize those who currently live in communities that most need it, and that inclusive, transparent and democratic decision-making should be utilized across all 50 wards in Chicago.

- Develop, adopt and implement an Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (eTOD) Policy Implementation Plan as mandated in the 2019 amendment to the Chicago TOD Ordinance.
  The Chicago TOD ordinance and related land-use policies have thus far increased the pace of development in already-strong markets. The eTOD Plan is an opportunity to incorporate financial tools to preserve affordability where needed, and to attract investment to disinvested communities without displacing residents.

- Invest city resources, both technical and capital, to build the Elevated Chicago development projects.
  Our pipeline of projects is the culmination of robust, collaborative community engagement on the part of multiple community organizations, and exemplifies what equitable TOD looks like in each eHub. The City of Chicago and other key investors should identify and allocate staff, programs and financial tools to help fill in the gaps and move these projects forward.

- Develop and pilot Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) roadmaps in at least three government agencies, in partnership with Elevated Chicago.
  Uneven and racially biased investment arose from policies, such as redlining, that continue to influence neighborhood investment. Elevated Chicago is designing a cohort to engage leaders and professionals in the development fields to: learn, assess and identify DEI gaps and opportunities and the impact on their organizations’ work; co-design interventions; and, develop a roadmap for measuring and advancing DEI.

  Investment will go where it is needed most when public and private power brokers in neighborhood development apply clear, consistent rules about community engagement and are held accountable to them. Our Principles & Recommendations summarize values and tools for robust, efficient, and authentic engagement of community in decision-making.