



JANUARY–JUNE 2020: HIGHLIGHTS

The first half of the year has challenged us all. Since mid-March, when the pandemic forced the world to shelter-in-place, Elevated Chicago placed our **Adaptability value** and **Racial Equity and Public Health lenses** at the center of our COVID-19 response, taking several measures to mobilize resources and partnerships locally and nationally. The racial justice protests in May/June and their aftermath made these adaptations even more necessary. We've moved forward our equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD) and taken time to consider our partners' needs, our privilege, and ways to make our work more intentional.

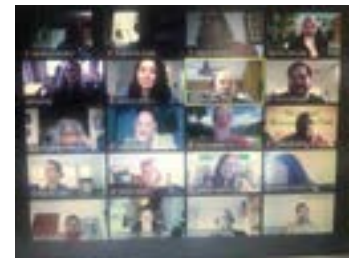


Image from an eTOD Working Group meeting

New grants received and in proposal development

- Additional funding from [Convergence Partnership](#) and [SPARCC](#) will allow us to **double our 2020-2021 grant pool for our five Community Tables to \$200,000**, increasing community collaboration, capacity and power to advocate for an equitable COVID-19 recovery.
- A [\\$75,000 award from The Funder Network](#), matched 1:1 by The Chicago Community Trust, will make **\$150,000 available to the Mayor's Office and Elevated Chicago to develop eTOD policy jointly with community organizations** throughout 2021, in partnership with the Dept. of Planning and Development, and the Dept. of Housing.
- We are developing a \$200,000 proposal to SPARCC led by Metropolitan Planning Council to **fund our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion learning cohort pilot in collaboration with Atlanta**.
- We submitted a \$500,000 proposal to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation led by CNT to **apply the [Healthy Streets for London](#) model** in our eHubs for increased health equity and climate change resilience, in collaboration with the Chicago Dept. of Transportation and the Chicago Dept. of Public Health.

Grants made or in process to be disbursed

- We have allowed **maximum budget flexibility** in our

active 2019-2020 grants to community-based orgs (\$150,000+) so they can adapt to remote work and community engagement. Allowed new expenses include tech (laptops, webcams, software subscriptions, etc.), deep cleaning, supplies, mutual aid funds, etc.

- CDPH has extended its **Seed Grants program for walkability to and from CTA stations** (approx. \$150,000) into 2020, by continuing support of the current six grantees in Elevated Chicago eHubs.
- We've completed disbursement of \$500,000 in capital grants for projects supported by our Community Tables.

Capital investments & program design/implementation

- Elevated Chicago sent written support to the City Council's Finance Committee for [approval of \\$24M in financing for the Emmett Street eTOD, 100 affordable homes in the heart of our Logan Square eHub](#). We are grateful for the leadership of Dept. of Housing and Dept. of Planning & Development, and for Logan Square Neighborhood Association's role engaging community and advocating for this development.
- The Elevated Chicago Steering Committee approved submission to SPARCC of a \$100,000 capital grant and \$500,000 loan request, for the **expansion of Esperanza Health Centers' administrative offices in Little**

Village (California Pink Line eHub). This transit-oriented administrative space will allow a 20% increase in patients served.

- **Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning (CMAP) and RTA have continued working with our Green Line South partners** to move forward eTOD action planning in the Garfield eHub, developing a visual history of Washington Park and initiating a matching grant to Emerald South for community engagement. This work will support a \$133K capital grant for branding, walkability and wayfinding.

Systems & narrative change agendas

- In April, Elevated Chicago joined Active Transit Alliance, Metropolitan Planning Council, CNT and other advocacy organizations, in signing [a letter calling for RTA, CTA, Metra and Pace](#) to establish an equitable, clear and transparent process for the regional transit response to COVID-19, and offering our support.
- On April 30, Elevated Chicago and the Metropolitan Planning Council hosted our **first Diversity, Equity & Inclusion webinar, [Leading Inclusively in Times of Crisis](#)**, attended by 80+ people.
- In May, we co-hosted with the Mayor's Office, Dept. of Housing and Dept. of Planning and Development two **virtual eTOD Working Group policy workshops**, with 60+ participants. We

have secured support from [MZ Strategies](#) to assist with the drafting of the policy document due in August.

- On June 4, we published [an op-ed in Crain's Chicago Business on the role of equitable TOD in addressing the covid-19 pandemic and the more recent racial justice protests](#), featuring the Emmett Street eTOD.
- The first week of June, [Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García introduced a bill that we endorsed, which will create an Office of Equitable TOD and Mobility within the USDOT](#), significantly increasing capital and technical assistance to implement TOD in communities of color and low-income communities.

Community engagement and ownership

- On April 21, SPARCC, Elevated Chicago and the work of the eTOD Working Group were featured as a national model during a **Virtual Learning Convening on [Engaging for Equity in a World with Covid-19](#)**, attended by 150+ people from across the country.
- Work continues in support of a Community Land Trust in Logan Square led by LUCHA, LSNA and Spanish Coalition for Housing, funded through a \$133,000 grant.
- A \$25,000 grant to Garfield Park Community Council is being used to explore community ownership models for affordable mixed-use development Garfield Green in Kedzie/Lake eHub.