OUR TEAM

MARK BENNETT, AICP

Director of Planning, Central Region
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Based in Chicago, Mark is both a transportation planner and urban designer. His work is focused on designing systems and spaces that not just move people but bring people together. With a decade of experience in corridor planning, multimodal safety, streetscape design, and downtown planning, Mark specializes in projects that leverage our transportation systems and streets to build stronger, more resilient, and more interesting communities. Past work includes managing the transportation and parking analysis for a downtown revitalization plan in Palos Heights, leading mobility planning for the Dempster Street Corridor Plan in Morton Grove, and supporting the development of a downtown form-based code in Moline. Mark has also previously supported the City of Chicago in developing innovative curb management strategies and co-authored a tactical outdoor design guide for the Illinois Restaurant Association. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Mark served as co-Editor-in-Chief of the American Planning Association's 2020 State of Transportation Planning Report. From 2015-2017, Mark served on the City of Madison's Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Motor Vehicle Commission. Mark lives with his wife, daughter, and border collie along the UP-Northwest line in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood.

Select project experience includes work completed as a member of Sam Schwartz/ TYLin City solutions.

EDUCATION

Harvard Graduate School of Design
Cambridge, MA
MUP with Distinction, 2019

University of Wisconsin—Madison
Madison, WI
BA, 2013

EXPERIENCE

Speck Dempsey
Director of Planning, Central Region, 2026 – present

Sam Schwartz/ TYLin City Solutions
Associate, Planner/ Urban Designer, 2019 – 2026

Chicago Mayor's Office
Mayoral Fellow, 2018

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Olde Palos Redevelopment Plan
Palos Heights, IL

Uptown South Master Plan
Normal, IL

Dempster Street Corridor Plan
Morton Grove, IL

RTA Transit Friendly Communities Guide
Chicago, IL, Region

Kimball Station Area Curbside Management and Mobility Plan
Chicago, IL

City of Chicago Smart Streets Pilot
Chicago, IL

Moline Downtown Form-Based Code
Moline, IL