

Phase 3 Engagement Summary

June-August 2025

The City of Minneapolis is developing a design for 1st Ave N with community input to re-envision the iconic corridor before reconstruction in 2028. We are progressing through a multi-phase engagement approach and this phase garnered community feedback on four draft design options for 1st Ave N. The next and final phase of engagement will include the preferred layout for the corridor.

1ST AVE N Reconstruction Project



What We Heard

Five key messages from engagement:

- **The design options presented were generally well received**, generating helpful feedback for the project team on how well various designs meet project goals.
- **Pedestrian-focused features and design that supports corridor vibrancy** are top priorities. This includes wide sidewalks, greening, and space for business and public activities on the corridor.
- **No strong consensus emerged** on whether two way or one way traffic would best serve project goals.
- **Options with bikeways received better average ratings in the project survey**, though preference for a bikeway varied across stakeholder groups. Some expressed excitement for bikeway options while others highlight adjacent bikeways on Hennepin Ave.
- **Street parking/loading, corridor greening and detailed amenities** such as green infrastructure plantings, and seating for flexible spaces including outdoor dining remain a key interest to refine in the next stage of design.

By the Numbers

- 40+** Open house attendees
- 356** Online survey responses
- 941** Newsletter subscribers
- 2** Stakeholder Design Dialogues held
- 5** Presentations to neighborhood and business organizations
- 8** Property & business owner meetings

Project Goals

- Pedestrian Focus**
- Neighborhood Amenities**
- Exciting Destination**
- Access**
- Nightlife & Events**
- Greening**



For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact Leoma Van Dort at 612-673-2390 or 1stAvenueNReconstructionProject@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para ayuda, llame al 311. Rau kev pab hu 311. Hadii aad caawimaad u baahantahay wac 311.



Engagement Strategies Open House

The Open House for Phase 3 was hosted at the Minneapolis Central Library on Nicollet Mall. We welcomed participants to share their insights on design concepts for 1st Ave N and help us evaluate how well they serve the project goals. Each of the design concepts included detailed information regarding benefits and tradeoffs and an overall matrix was shared that allowed participants to easily compare each of the options under consideration. Activities also featured interviews with community members from past engagement phases and displays of the outcomes of visioning exercises to frame conversations about these concepts. In addition to participation in the survey and providing written comments, attendees could work with an artist at the event to portray their ideas for how the flex space in the design could be used.

The display boards from the open house meeting can be found on the project website.

Key Open House Insights:



Pedestrian Focus

Strong support for emphasizing the pedestrian realm improvements.



Neighborhood Amenities

Contrasts between the design concepts and the tradeoffs related to the use of space sparked conversation. In evaluating two way and one way traffic options, most people were open to both ideas as long as they deliver well on pedestrian features and the project goals.



Access

There were several discussions on how the bikeway design could support safer access to destinations on the corridor via various micromobility options including bikes and scooters. Others highlighted concerns that that space would be better leveraged toward more flex space, including parking/loading.



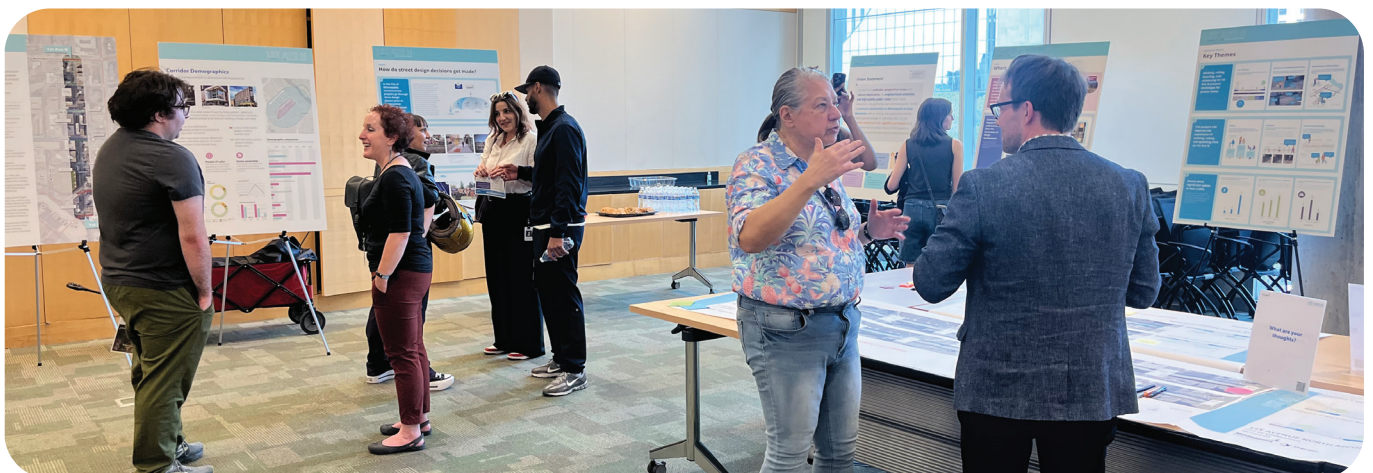
Exciting Destination

Several attendees reviewed detailed concept layouts of the options to look at potential street parking locations, greenspace and other amenities and shared ideas for how to locate those features.



Overall

Attendees rated one way options higher than two way options, with **Option 3 (One way with bikeway) at a 4.3 average score** and **Option 4 (One way no bikeway) at 4.0** compared to **Option 1 (Two way with bikeway) at 2.9** and **Option 2 (Two way no bikeway) at 3.0** based on how well they met project goals.



Engagement Strategies

Stakeholder Design Dialogues

In earlier phases of engagement, the project sought to hold in-depth discussions with many different stakeholder groups individually. At this stage of the project, we wanted to bring varied stakeholder voices together to discuss design concepts and weigh the benefits and tradeoffs in larger discussions. The resulting Stakeholder Design Dialogues brought together past participants in project engagement in two sessions, one in person at Butler Square and one virtual meeting.

Key Stakeholder Design Dialogue Insights:

01 | People broke into small groups to discuss individual alternatives and comment on individual blocks. This helped people see multiple perspectives on solutions.

02 | Discussion covered how each design could best support businesses and corridor vibrancy. This included features like space for sidewalk dining, greening, access to parking, and activation to bring more people to the corridor.

03 | Stakeholders discussed the walkability and bikeability of the options, sharing their views on how to balance needs of many users. Some shared concerns that a 1st Ave bikeway could be redundant with Hennepin, while others discussed the benefits to pedestrians when bikes, scooters and other micromobility devices have their own space and aren't riding on sidewalks designed for pedestrians.



Business & Neighborhood Meetings

The project team had the opportunity to present updates and gather feedback from several neighborhood and business organizations on the corridor for this phase, including the following:

- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association
- Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition
- North Loop Neighborhood Association

Key Business & Property Owner Meeting Insights:

01 | Delivery & pickup access is essential for corridor businesses during the day, while also supporting Uber/Lyft pickup and drop-off during late night hours. This is particularly important for businesses that don't have alley access for deliveries. Pick-up and drop-off spaces for Target Center and hotels are well reflected in the current concepts.

02 | Interest in outdoor patio and street parking access is strong among building owners and managers to help add vibrancy and attract/support business tenants.

03 | There is interest in greening, including raised planters or hanging planters over in-ground or at-grade sidewalk planters.

04 | Support for the one way concepts are strong, as there's a positive association with how the street operated before the two way change. Several stakeholders prefer concepts without a bikeway, but also see value in separating scooters and pedestrians.

05 | Support for aesthetically pleasing bollards and barricades to improve the ability to close the street during events & programs.



In the open-ended questions, we heard about the top areas that make people excited about a particular design and concerns that they have.

What excites you most about the four options?

	Comments
Dedicated bike infrastructure	137
Pedestrian space	72
Trees and greening	57
Street for people over cars	33
Positive impact on corridor vibrancy	33

What concerns you most about the four options?

	Comments
Not including a bikeway	65
Too much space for cars with multi-lane road plus parking	47
Including a bikeway	45
One way traffic due to speed and safety	33
Increase in traffic congestion	25

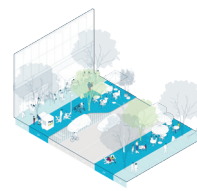
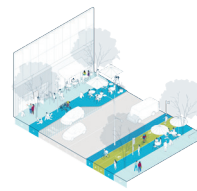
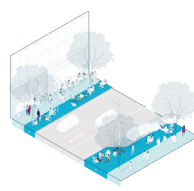
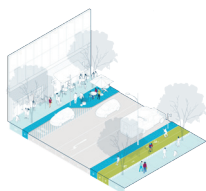
Engagement Strategies Online Survey

The online survey provided a way for the public to weigh in on the design concepts and share feedback with the project team. The online survey was open from June 10th to July 28th, 2025, and received 356 responses.

How well do you think the following options meet the project goals?

After introducing each design concept, the survey prompted people to rate each concept on a scale of 1-5 based on project goals.

- Option 3 received the highest average ratings for the following project goals: Pedestrian Focused, Greening the Corridor, and Exciting Destination, Neighborhood Amenities and Nightlife & Events.
- Option 1 and Option 3 received the highest average ratings for Access, at 3.3 and 3.2 respectively.
- Option 3 received the highest overall average rating, with Option 1 close behind.



	Option 1: Two way with bikeway	Option 2: Two way with no bikeway	Option 3: One way with bikeway	Option 4: One way with no bikeway
Goals				
Pedestrian Focused	3.0	2.6	3.3	2.6
Greening the Corridor	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.1
Access	3.3	2.6	3.2	2.3
Exciting Destination, Neighborhood Amenities, Nightlife and Events	2.8	2.7	3.2	2.8
Overall Average	3.0	2.7	3.2	2.7

Insights from Survey Data

01

The project team received many comments about whether including a bikeway should be a priority on this corridor.

- 137 comments indicated excitement about including a dedicated bikeway.
- 24 comments indicated excitement about options that don't have a bikeway.
- Options 1 and 3, which include the bikeway, also received the highest rating based on project goals.

02

While Option 3 received the highest overall average rating based on project goals, some people shared a concern about potential speed and safety issues with one way traffic options.

03

Option 1 also received a high overall average rating, but didn't score as well as Option 3 on Pedestrian Focus and Greening the Corridor.

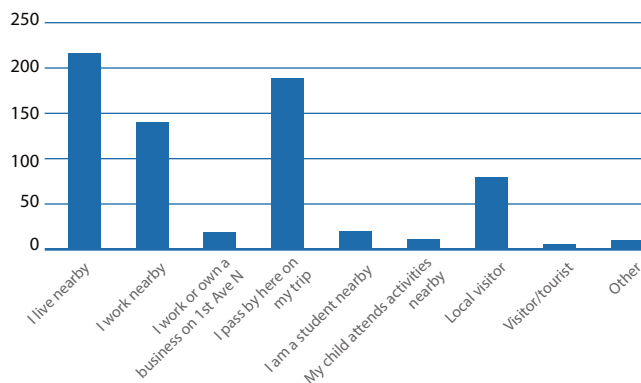
- Many concerns were related to a perception that the designs still allocated too much space to moving cars.

Survey Responses

- 88% of respondents live in Minneapolis, with the top zip codes being in or close to downtown.
- A majority of respondents identified as white, meaning that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents are underrepresented.
- 62% of respondents were male and 37% were of the ages between 25 and 34, which underrepresents women and other age categories of neighborhood residents.

Further analysis of all survey responses can be found in the Appendix.

Which of the following statements describe you best in relation to 1st Ave?



What's Next - Preferred Concept in Phase 4 - Fall 2025

The project team will be working to take the input received in Phase 3 to move toward a preferred design. Stay tuned this fall for opportunities to weigh in on the final design. The project engagement approach is available on the project website.

Phase 1:
Existing Conditions

completed

Phase 2:
Ideas, Visioning

completed

Phase 3:
Concept Design

completed

we are here

Phase 4:
Preferred Concept

Fall 2025

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Project website: www.minneapolismn.gov/1st-Ave-N-project



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