

FIRST AVE. S RECONSTRUCTION - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The City of Minneapolis is reconstructing First Ave. S between Lake St. and Grant St. in Minneapolis to improve safety and mobility for people using all modes of travel. The project includes replacing the bridge over Midtown Greenway, installing a bikeway, adding green stormwater infrastructure, planting boulevards and more. Initial planning for the First Ave. S project has started, and the city began collecting community feedback on people’s experiences walking, biking rolling, using transit, and driving in the corridor and asking people what they want to see improved along the corridor.

In March and April 2022, the city gathered feedback in person and online by hosting a virtual public meeting, conducting street interviews, and creating a survey and online interactive map. The city heard from people who live and move through the project corridor. The city also partnered with Blind Inc., a non-profit blindness training center, to hold feedback sessions to gather feedback from its students.

	Community Engagement Methods			
	Virtual public meeting	On street interviews	Online survey	Blind Inc. Open Forum
Number of attendees	10	57	32	53

From the feedback gathered so far, the city understands that people in the community are concerned about vehicles driving and parking in bike lanes, increasing safety and mobility of bikers and drivers through the corridor, as well as concerns about access impacts during construction for pedestrians, delivery trucks and emergency vehicles.

Community members that participated in the Blind Inc. forum mentioned widening and repairing sidewalks, as well as creating consistency throughout curbs, sidewalks, and intersections to increase access for blind and low-vision users.

Respondents are excited to see maintenance to First Ave., including fixing potholes, and increasing safety at the 15th and 16th St. intersections. Increased traffic flow was the most popular improvement selected in street interviews. The City of Minneapolis will continue to involve community members throughout the project’s design phase, using input from community engagement events like these to develop the future designs and plans for First Ave.

Interactive Map Comments:

“We really need those bump outs at each of these intersections to help shorten crossing distances in all directions for pedestrians. These areas are so dense but are very uncomfortable to walk in. Matching that with the bikeway will make this area feel much more comfortable and less like a pass-through zone.”

“Please make a fully protected bike lane so vehicles can not park in it. This is a constant problem with the current bike lane. At least two delivery vehicles or Uber cars are always in the bike lane in this area whenever I bike here.”

“Changing this to one lane has made living in this neighborhood challenging. Delivery people, people being picked up/dropped off have nowhere to stop so it holds up traffic or they park in the bike lane.”

What would you like improved on First Ave. S?

Improved traffic flow	33	27.5%
Wider sidewalks	27	22.5%
Improved bike options	20	16.7%
Improved pedestrian crossings	20	16.7%
Green infrastructure	8	6.7%
Other	12	10%

Number of responses from on street interviews