

2nd Street S | Phase 1 Engagement Summary

June 23, 2022

Introduction

Minneapolis Public Works is evaluating improvements on 2nd Street S from 2nd Avenue S to 13th Avenue S, and on one block of 13th Avenue S from 2nd Street S to West River Parkway. The aim of this project is to identify opportunistic safety improvements that can be installed in coordination with street maintenance which is planned to occur in the Summer of 2023. Improvements under considerations include low cost, high benefit treatments to improve safety for all people, regardless of how they choose to move, and to better manage vehicle speeds.

Project staff started community engagement in the spring and summer of 2022 with the goals of sharing the initial ideas being considered, seeking input from community members on priorities, and gaining a better understanding on how the corridor is used.



Summary of Engagement Strategies

Engagement activities completed include a mailing to area residents and business to share information and encourage people to provide input, dozens of in-person and virtual meetings with people who live and work adjacent to the project corridor, a community meeting attended by residents of adjacent condominiums, meetings with large stakeholders such as the Guthrie Theater and U of M facilities staff, multiple neighborhood organization meetings, and meetings with city pedestrian and bicycle advocacy groups.

Engagement Highlights

The following is a high-level summary of the key themes from the engagement completed.

High activity area

This is a high activity area. The area is home to several new residential condominiums which have brought more people and traffic to the area. 2nd Street S is also close to multiple high draw, regional destinations. This includes Gold Medal Park, the Guthrie Theater, The Mill City Museum, the Stone Arch Bridge, the Mill City Farmers Market, and Multiple high-volume bicycle and recreational routes such as the trail along West River Parkway. It is a busy place and safety for people moving is a priority.

Vehicle speeds are high

A common theme from corridor residents is that people often drive too fast on 2nd Street. Of particular concern is the area near Gold Medal Park where people have raced cars down 2nd Street. High vehicle speeds are a safety hazard for people walking and biking along and across the corridor and fast moving vehicles can create noise which is a nuisance to people who live and work in the area.

Engagement Activity Summary

- 4,000+ piece mailing
- Neighboring stakeholder meetings (x3)
- One-one-one conversations (20+)
- DMNA meetings (x2)
- Guthrie government affairs meeting
- U of M traffic meeting
- BAC/PAC committees
- Council Member briefing



Need to improve pedestrian safety

Many people feel strongly that pedestrian safety must be a priority for this area. People mentioned needing safety improvements for walking along 2nd Street and across. Specific issues were the need to separate moving bikes, scooters, and cars from people walking, the need to maintain and improve accessibility for those with mobility impairments, and the need to improve winter maintenance (snow and ice clearance). Specific areas of concern mentioned include crossing at 11th Avenue, at 10th Avenue (to get to Gold Medal Park), at the Guthrie Theater, and at Park Avenue. Many people mentioned feeling that the current 11th Avenue intersection is confusing and multiple people mentioned the need for a curb cut on the north side of 2nd Street opposite of the 10th Avenue intersection. There are curb cuts on the south, but not the north side of the street so if somebody rolls across there is no place for them to get back on to the sidewalk.

Comment Highlights

- This is a high activity area
- Vehicle speeds are high
- Need to improve pedestrian safety
- Keep bikes and scooters off sidewalks
- Important bicycle route
- Need to maintain property access
- Aesthetics are important

Want to keep bikes and scooters in their lanes and off sidewalk

Many people expressed frustration with people riding bikes and scooters on the sidewalks along 2nd Street. It is a safety concern and many people shared stories of collisions and near misses with people riding on the sidewalk while they were walking. People asked for more enforcement of traffic rules and better education for riders. Some people felt that an improved bikeway would help as it would make it more attractive for people riding bikes and scooters to use that facility instead of the sidewalk. A few people requested pedestrian lighting to improve security for people walking after sunset.

This is an important bicycle route

Many people expressed their enthusiasm for bicycling on the corridor and were in support of making improvements to the existing bikeway to make it safer and more comfortable for all people to ride. People noted that this route serves as an important east-west connection in this part of the city as it connects to major bikeway facilities such as West River Road, 3rd Avenue, Portland Avenue, and the Stone Arch Bridge and it provides access to major regional destinations.

Need to maintain adequate property access – visitors, deliveries, garbage

Multiple people commented that it is critical to maintain access to the many residential and commercial properties along 2nd Street. People noted specific areas for garbage pickup, passenger drop off, and deliveries such as near main entrances, loading docks, and driveways.

Aesthetics are important

Many people commented on the efforts made to make this corridor look beautiful. Things like street trees, planted boulevards, Gold Medal Park, and historic architecture add to the aesthetic feel of this area and people want that to be perpetuated in to the future. Some people feel that delineator posts, both existing and any new posts related to the bikeway, detract or would detract from the aesthetics of the area.

Next Steps

The next steps in the process are for the project team to develop the design concept. The design concept recommendation will be made based on a balance of the community input received, the technical constraints of the project, and the city's planning and policy direction. Project staff will present the concept design for the corridor to the community in late summer/early fall of 2022.

