

15 AVE NE PAVING & SAFETY PROJECT

Paving, protected bike lanes, sidewalk repair, crossing improvements, parking removal.

August 2019

60% Design Outreach Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2019, we began outreach to gather input on the 60% design phase of the 15th Ave NE Paving and Safety project.

Community members were engaged in various ways and provided with various opportunities to give feedback on the project. Participants provided their insight into design details of the project, voicing support as well as concerns with specific areas. Support was apparent for the overall project with many showing an understanding and appreciation for the safety aspects of the plan and appreciation for our investment in basic street maintenance and paving. Concerns focused on parking loss, bike lane installation, and load zone removal.

A detailed summary of the overall outreach is included in the following pages.

OVERVIEW OF OUTREACH METHODS

- May 29:** Project mailer/invitation to 10,000 addresses
- June 4:** Facebook post announcing drop in sessions to 11,000 followers
- June 5:** Door to door business survey to more than 30 businesses
- June 12:** Open house at Roosevelt High School with 60 plus people attending
- June 22:** Sidewalk pop-up event at 15th Ave NE and NE Ravenna Blvd with almost 50 attendees
- June 12-29:** Online survey with 55 responses

PROJECT OVERVIEW

We will pave 1.3 miles of 15th Ave NE between NE 55th St and Lake City Way NE. The work will make it safer for all users and extend the life of the pavement. We will remove parking from one side of the street for a safer design, and we'll introduce 24/7 parking to the remaining parking spaces so people don't need to move their cars daily.

In addition to paving, the project will include:

- Sidewalk repair and accessible curb ramp upgrades
- Removal of peak-hour parking restrictions to make parking available 24/7 on 1 side of the street
- New protected bike lanes between NE 80th St and NE 62nd St, and new standard bike lanes between Cowen Pl NE and NE 55th St
- New exclusive left-turn lanes
- Stormwater drainage improvements
- Parking removal on 1 side of the street
- Safe Routes to School and neighborhood greenway crossing improvements at Roosevelt High School with 3 rapid flashing beacons
- New traffic signals with left-turn phases at 3 intersections

OVERVIEW OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

Feedback was collected in various ways at public meetings and through online methods, such as surveys. During open houses in-person notes were taken, comment sheets were completed, and post-it notes were attached to large project maps. In all, hundreds of comments were collected and sorted into common themes that are presented below:

Bike Lanes

- Maintain bike lanes, including painted lines and cleaning of lanes
- Concerns for people riding bikes leaving bike lanes and wanting to turn left at intersections
- Requests for parking on curb rather than bike lane
- Support for bike lanes and the safety they provide
- Concerns for areas where bikes mix with traffic, such as at intersections
- Some asked that bike lanes do not have pylons
- Requests for protected bike lanes south of NE 62nd St
- Many requests for the bike facility to be on 20th Ave NE
- Requests for the use of neighborhood greenways instead of protected bike lanes

Left Turn Signals and Pockets

- Support for safety aspect of pockets and turn signals
- Concerns that they reduce parking options
- Concerns have been raised regarding the 15th Ave NE and NE 65th St intersection and how bus traffic might cause additional hold ups during peak travel periods

Pedestrian crosswalks and safety

- Concerns for crossing at NE 75th St, NE 77th St and NE 80th St as people note people in cars focus on traffic signals. They note turn pockets would help with this.
- Cars currently park too close to driveways and
- People having to walk across street between NE 77th St and NE 80th St and many have asked for a crosswalk here.
- Multiple requests for a crosswalk at NE 62nd St and 15th Ave NE
- Complaints about people on bicycles using the sidewalk and making it unsafe for people who are walking

Parking

- General objections to the loss of parking
- People ask for parking to be on other side of the street below NE 75th St
- Many abandoned cars reported and fears that 24/7 parking will mean these will not get removed quickly
- Concerns for lack of parking for Roosevelt High School, especially when Link Light Rail opens

General traffic

- People showed concern for the road being made into “one lane” in both directions when peak period parking restrictions go away
- Concerns regarding the operations of transit at NE 65th St and NE 80th St intersections
- Concerns for slowed traffic creating more emissions
- Question about using traffic circles
- Will signals be updated to support this new design?

Transit

- Concerns about cars swerving around stopped buses
- People asking if bus stops north and south of NE 65th St will cause a hold up with this configuration
- Will transit be routed differently when light rail opens?
- Buses turning left from NE 80th St block the inside northbound lane. Consider modifications to prevent this

Support

- Many comments supporting the project
- Many people supporting protected bike lanes
- Various people voiced support for the consideration of many modes of transport citing their families drive cars, ride buses, and ride their bikes
- Many supportive comments in favor of the safety improvements of the project
- People supporting SDOT's commitment to Vision Zero and the reduction of collisions
- Concerns that the project design might be changed later in the process
- Many thanked the outreach team for listening to their feedback and responding to comments

Opposition

- People voiced their opinion that SDOT does not listen to their comments and that outreach is a waste of time
- People oppose bike lanes in general
- Responses asked if there is data to support additional use of bike facilities once they are constructed
- Dislike of parking removal
- Businesses had concerns with the loss of load zones