Oklahoma Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project

Community Engagement #1 – November 10, 2022

Meeting Summary

Overview

DPW held the first community meeting and corridor walk for the Oklahoma Avenue Multimodal Improvements project on the evening of November 10, 2022 at Zablocki Public School. DPW introduced the project to community members, ran a series of activities to identify safety and mobility needs between S. 27th St and S. 6th St, and presented a sampling of design options to attendees for their initial feedback.

Our Engagement Pledge: over the course of the project, we will continue to work with you to affirm that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide a summary on how public input influenced the design and project decisions.



Mapping Exercise



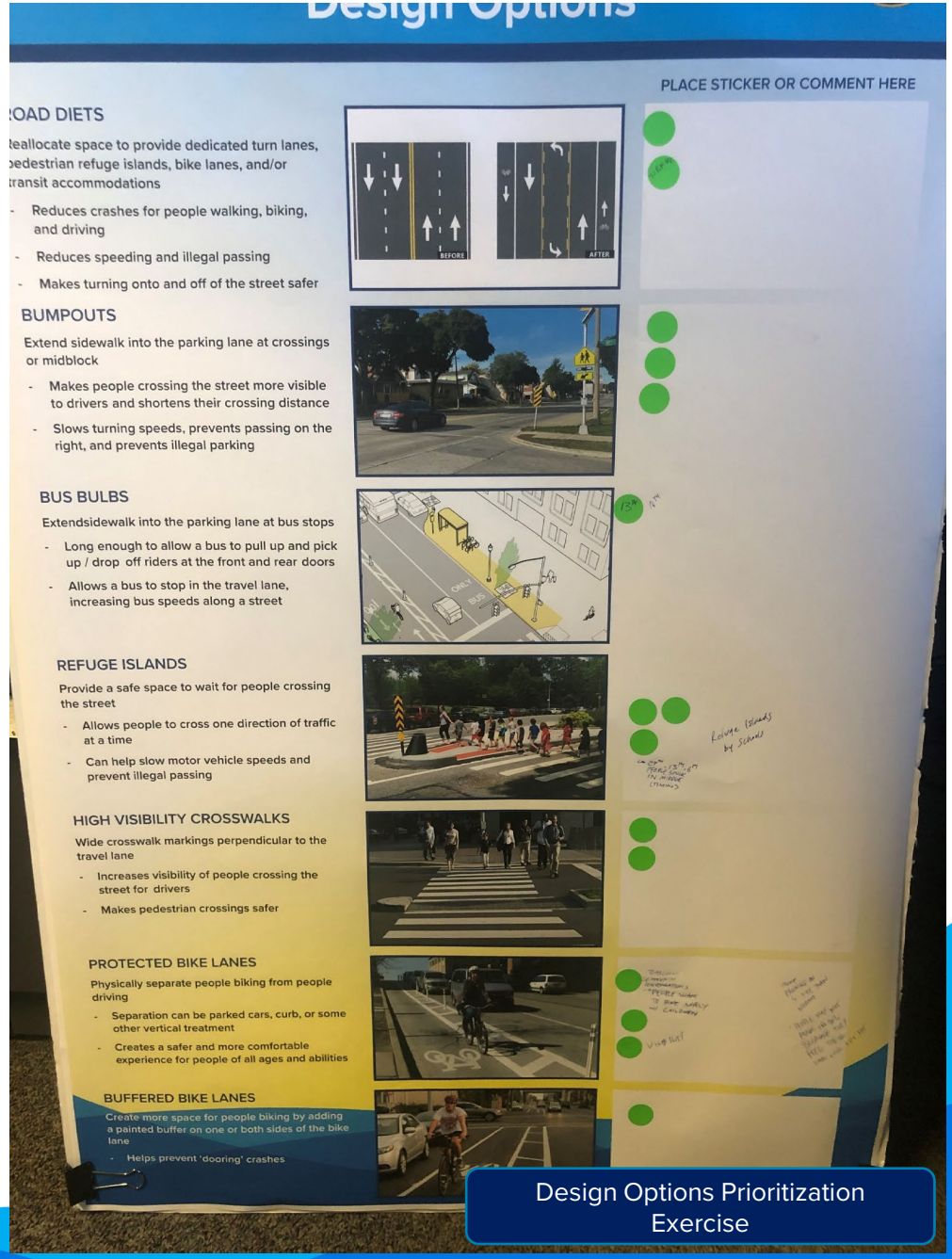
Corridor Walk

Feedback and Comments

In addition to mapping exercises, meeting participants and City staff took a short corridor walk outside Zablocki to illustrate the safety needs and share their ideas on how to improve the street.

Some of what we heard included:

- Drivers are speeding and passing on the right, creating an environment that is unfriendly to people walking, biking, taking transit, visiting businesses, and going to school.
- Speeding cars are loud!
- Drivers don't stop for people crossing the street. Recent improvements at Zablocki were helpful but did not solve the problem; people still feel terrified.
- Left turns onto and off Oklahoma are challenging and feel unsafe.
- At signals there isn't enough crossing time for parents, younger people, and elders.
- There are too many lanes of traffic, a road diet that redistributes space to a median for safe turning, pedestrian refuge islands, and a bike facility would be a big improvement.



Design Options Prioritization Exercise

Project Goals

Based on citywide Complete Streets objectives, the input received through *Envision South 13th Street Together*, outreach to schools on the corridor, and feedback from the meeting, corridor walk, and project website, DPW has developed the following Project Goals for Oklahoma Ave, which will be used to develop design alternatives:



Decrease Motor Vehicle Speeds
Speeding is prevalent throughout the corridor, increasing the risk of severe crashes. High speeds make Oklahoma Ave a barrier that many residents and students are not comfortable crossing.



Increase Walkability
Community members do not feel safe crossing Oklahoma Ave to get to the many schools, businesses, bus stops, and parks located on or near the corridor. Bus stops on the corridor are not all ADA compliant, reducing access to transit.



Better Organize Traffic to Improve Safety for All Users
Left turns at signalized and unsignalized intersections are daunting and many drivers pass in the curb lane, reducing safety for people walking, biking, driving, and riding transit.



Create On-Street Bicycle Connections
Bicycle facilities end at S. 6th Street, but community members, including students, would like to be able to bike across and along Oklahoma Ave.

Next Steps

Following this meeting, DPW will utilize the feedback received to develop up to three design alternatives for the corridor. DPW anticipates engaging the community again in Winter 2023 to introduce the alternatives and identify a preferred alternative.

Couldn't join the meeting? We are still accepting your ideas through the project website!