



The Avenue
275 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53203
414 / 259 1500
414 / 259 0037 fax
www.graef-usa.com

collaborāte / formulāte / innovāte

Public Involvement Meeting #1 Summary Burnham Park Traffic Safety Improvements Project November 7, 2023

Project Description:

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is focused on improving the safety of our streets for people walking, wheeling, biking, taking public transit, and driving across the city, including Burnham Park. There are significant safety concerns on the streets throughout Burnham Park including reckless driving, speeding, dangerous crossings, and crashes resulting in injury and death. Most concerning is the number of crashes concentrated around schools, churches, and parks. This project is 100% locally funded with Stadium Business Park TID Funds.

Public Involvement Meetings

Three public involvement meetings (PIMs) are planned for the project. The intent and timing of the meetings are outlined below:

- PIM #1: November 7, 2023: Garner community feedback on existing conditions and gauge support for various traffic calming measures.
- PIM #2: Summer 2024: Obtain community feedback on concept designs and recommendations.
- PIM #3: Winter 2024/Spring 2025: Obtain community feedback on preferred alternatives.

Public Involvement Meeting #1

GRAEF, in coordination with VIA CDC and the City of Milwaukee, held the first public involvement meeting (PIM) for the Burnham Park Traffic Safety Improvements project at Greenfield Bilingual School on November 7th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There were 35 people in attendance (excluding the project team), including Alderwoman Zamarripa. This number may be conservative as some attendees may not have signed in using the sign-in sheet. The meeting was held in an open-house format with a scheduled 15-minute presentation at 6:15 p.m. The presentation was translated, and headsets were available for live translations for Spanish-speakers. VIA posted information about the first PIM on social media weeks prior to the meeting and mailed invitations to the meeting to all residents and business owners in the project area a week prior to the event. Alderwoman Zamarripa sent an e-notify about the meeting the morning of the meeting. Information about the PIM and the overall project timeline was also posted on the project website which went live before the PIM. The project website has been updated since the PIM to show the exhibits presented at the meeting and there is a comment box to give those who couldn't attend a chance to submit feedback. Below is a summary of the feedback and major themes gathered from the PIM.

Overall Summary:

Thirteen exhibit boards on various transportation-related topics were set up at the PIM, all of which included Spanish translations. A couple of the boards were informational, displaying details and graphics related to the project background, Vision Zero, and traffic calming infrastructure. The other boards were used to solicit verbal or written feedback from attendees about crashes, curbside uses, the existing traffic calming infrastructure, and the existing bike network in the area. Four of these boards focused in on streets/sections in the project area of specific concern: Burnham Street, Mitchell Street, 37th Street and the streets framing Burnham Park. Overall, residents were most concerned about safety issues related to speeding and reckless driving, especially around local schools. They were also concerned that this project would not result in real changes, as was perceived to have been the case with previous planning efforts.

Residents were enthusiastic about traffic calming measures, especially speed humps. The following major themes came out of the meeting:

Themes:

Traffic Calming Measures: many residents voiced serious concerns about speeding and reckless driving, especially around schools, and were enthusiastic about exploring various measures to mitigate it.

- Speed humps were a popular conversation topic at the meeting – there were 15 separate post-it comments that suggested adding speed humps at various locations, including 10 comments specifically about adding a speed hump on 32nd St, between Mitchell St and Burnham St.
- Traffic Circles:
 - More lighting/reflectors needed.
 - Multiple comments in support (at 37th St and Mitchell St specifically).
 - Multiple comments against, stating they cause more confusion and are potentially dangerous around schools.
- Improve pedestrian infrastructure and safety, especially around schools and parks:
 - Better crosswalks
 - Raised crosswalks
 - Pedestrian-activated flashing beacons and crossing signals
 - Crossing guards
- Street Design / Other Suggestions:
 - Changing streets from a two-way to one-way (35th St and 32nd St)
 - Reducing speeds and/or lanes
 - Street closures (Mitchell St and portion of Burnham Street, specifically)
 - Pinch point in front of schools
 - Red-light violation cameras

Parking Concerns:

- Multiple attendees voiced strong concerns about lack of parking and increased traffic due to the food trucks on Burnham Street. Some attendees suggested moving the trucks to a parking lot instead.
- Multiple attendees voiced concerns about people parking in the dead-end alley on 32nd Street, between Burnham and Mitchell, and blocking the way for residents to exit.

Safety/Crime:

- In general, residents were very concerned about speeding and reckless driving, especially on streets that are near schools and parks.
- Other safety concerns:
 - Multiple attendees were concerned about a group of truck drivers who regularly hangout and speed up and down 32nd Street, especially on the weekends. Residents have noted dangerous speeding, loud music and illegal activity related to this group and are frustrated that nothing has been done to stop it.
 - The darkness on streets creates an unsafe pedestrian environment. There was support for better street lighting.



collaborāte / formulāte / innovāte

PIM Exhibits:

- Project Background
- Vision Zero
- Crashes (2017-2021)
- Curbside Uses
- Existing Traffic Calming Infrastructure
- Existing Bike & Transit Network
- Traffic Calming Infrastructure
- 35th Street Existing Conditions
- Burnham Street Existing Conditions
- Mitchell Street Existing Conditions
- 37th Street Existing Conditions
- Burnham Park Existing Conditions