Oklahoma Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project

Community Engagement #3 – May-June 2023

Outreach Summary

Overview

Based on citywide Complete Streets objectives, the input received through *Envision South 13th Street Together*, outreach to schools on the corridor, resident feedback from the first round of engagement in November 2022, and comments received through project website, DPW developed four Project Goals for Oklahoma Ave.

The Project Goals and detailed comments from the first round of engagement shaped the design alternatives proposed between S. 27th and S. 6th Streets in the second round during February 2023.

Based on the Project Goals and community and stakeholder engagement, DPW selected a preferred alternative and presented preliminary designs in May and June 2023 for feedback.



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.

May/June 2023 Engagement Activities

To provide information on preliminary design and solicit feedback prior to proceeding to final design, DPW:



Sent 4,339 postcard mailers to addresses along and near the Oklahoma Avenue project corridor.



Attended four ongoing local meetings to reach the community:

- District 6 Safety Meeting Tuesday 5/2
- Milwaukee Fire Museum Open House Sunday 5/7
- KK River Neighbors in Action Monthly Meeting Tuesday 5/9
- District 2 Safety Meeting Wednesday 5/17
- Zablocki Open House Thursday 5/18
- District 6 Safety Meeting Tuesday 6/6



Held virtual office hours to reach the community on their own schedule:

- Saturday 5/6
- Thursday 5/11

Received 75 comments on the final design hosted on the project website.



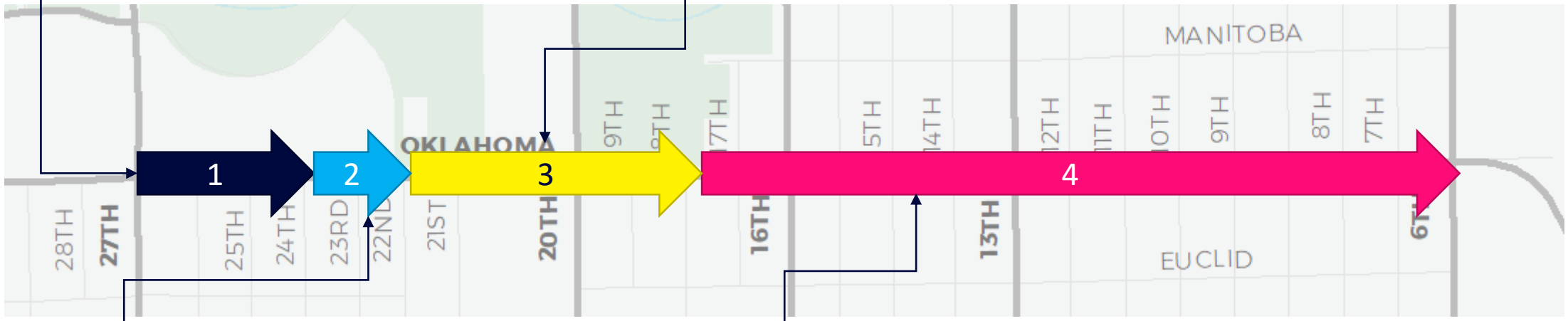
Held a project community meeting on June 13th at Flores Hall with project presentation, Q/A, and a mapping exercise.

Preferred Alternative

Based on the project goals, expressed community design priorities, and comments received about the importance of parking on the eastern end of the corridor, DPW developed the following high-level preferred alternative, with four distinct sections. The design blends elements of both alternatives, keeping on-street parking where it is utilized and providing bike access and protection where possible.

1 **S. 27th to S. 24th**
Parking lane lines, improved pedestrian crossings at priority locations; no travel lane removals

3 **S. 22nd to S. 17th**
4:3 road diet, protected bike lanes, parking removal along north side of Oklahoma; improved pedestrian crossings at priority locations



2 **S. 24th to S. 22nd**
4:3 road diet, no bike lanes, (people biking guided north to KK River Parkway), parking on both sides of Oklahoma

4 **S. 17th to S. 6th**
4:3 road diet, buffered bike lanes, parking on both sides of Oklahoma; improved pedestrian crossings at priority locations

1 S. 27th to S. 24th Streets



3 S. 22nd to S. 17th Streets



4 S. 17th to S. 6th Streets



Final Preferred Design Forum

A public forum was held on the project website to provide opportunity to voice opinions and engage in conversation on the final preferred design. Seventy-five comments were collected. Received comments reflected a variety of opinions about the design including:

- Support for a safer street
- Desire for more protected bike facilities
- Requests for updated signal timings
- Better visibility behind parked cars
- Calls for ADA upgrades
- Concerns about repurposing traffic lanes

This feedback underlines the balanced, goals-oriented approach used in selecting the preferred alternative

Next Steps

Over the next few months, DPW will develop the final project plans, incorporating what we heard through all rounds of engagement. Project construction is currently anticipated in 2024.

Stay in touch with the project and updates on construction schedule through the project website! There you can also review more information about the project including past engagements and current project plans and designs.