

Hennepin and First NE improvements

October 2020 - January 2021 engagement summary

Hennepin County is developing a design plan for roadway improvements on Hennepin and First avenues (County Road 52) between Main Street and 8th Street in Minneapolis. From October 2020-January 2021, the project team performed a variety of engagement activities to gather input on what the project corridor is like today.



Next steps

The project team will use the input gathered from the public and begin to create different improvement options for the project corridor. These improvements will be shared at this next open house, which will be held sometime this spring.

Contact us

Josh Potter, P.E., project engineer for design
josh.potter@hennepin.us
Phone: 612-596-0820

Listening session feedback



Supporting the business district is a priority



Desire to maintain current parking



A one-way to two-way conversion or traffic lane reduction should be considered



Need to plan with E Line in mind



Safer pedestrian infrastructure is needed



Interest in knowing the crash and accident statistics of the project area



Desire for trees and greenspace



Walkers, rollers, and bikers do not feel safe travelling along the corridor



Traffic calming measures are needed



Desire for protected bike lanes



Postal trucks and semi-trucks frequently travel through the corridor



Crossing visibility needs to be improved



Stormwater runoff management needs to be improved



Problematic Intersections:

- 1st and 5th
- Central/5th/Hennepin
- Main and 1st
- 7th and Hennepin
- Central and 1st



Desire for better signage and wayfinding

Primary takeaways

Safety and accessibility

- Significant concern about **bike and ped** safety, accessibility, and comfort
- Support for improved facilities along the corridor for **people walking and biking**, especially at complex intersection of **Central/Hennepin/5th**

Multimodal access and connectivity

- Concerns related to management of **commuter traffic**, including **speeds and crossings**
- Interest in potential for **transit enhancements**

Equity, active living, and environmental health

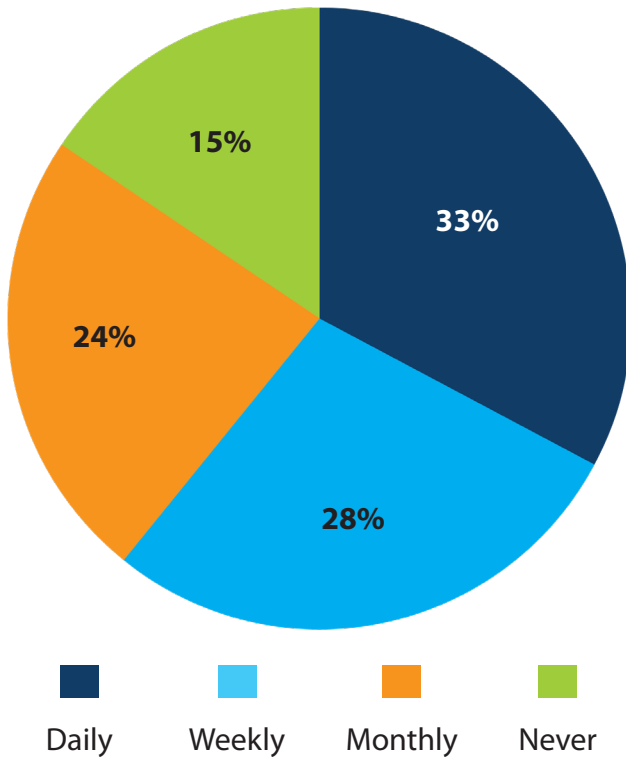
- Support for **attractive, well-maintained** corridors that encourage **walking and biking**
- Need for **equitable approach** that benefits entire community

Community and business district visibility

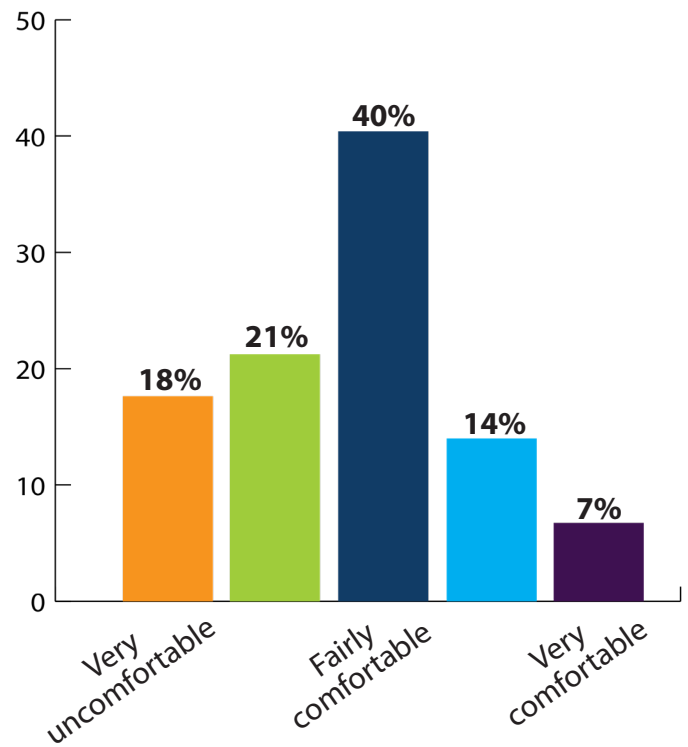
- Improvements should provide support for **business district**, including accommodating **parking, drop offs, walkability, and aesthetics**

Walking and rolling survey results

How often do you walk/roll along or across Hennepin and First avenues?



How comfortable is your experience while walking/rolling on Hennepin and First avenues?



Common themes



Drivers don't watch for walkers and rollers



Speeding is a major issue



Bikes and scooters often use the sidewalks



Better lighting is needed



Pedestrian crossings are unsafe because they:

- are too long to cross
- do not provide enough crossing time



Traffic calming measures are needed such as:

- Reducing the number of vehicle lanes
- One-way to two-way conversion

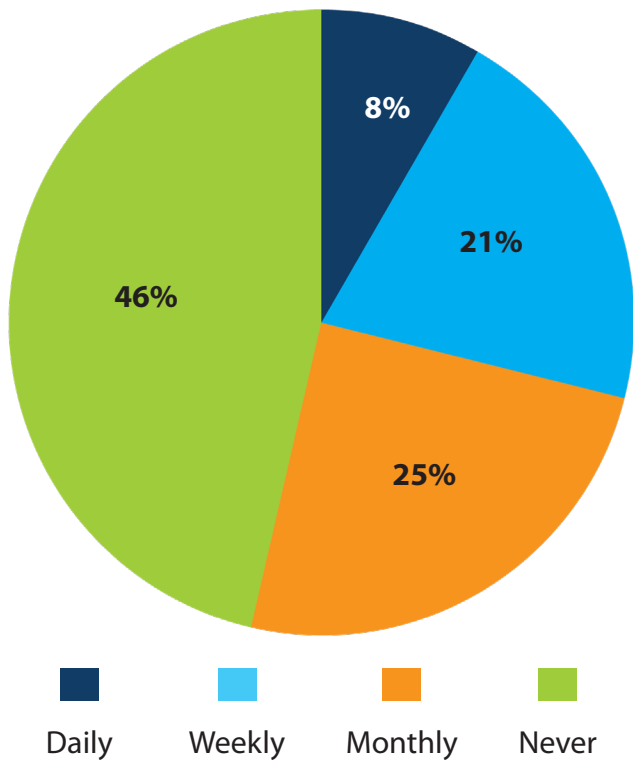


Sidewalks are:

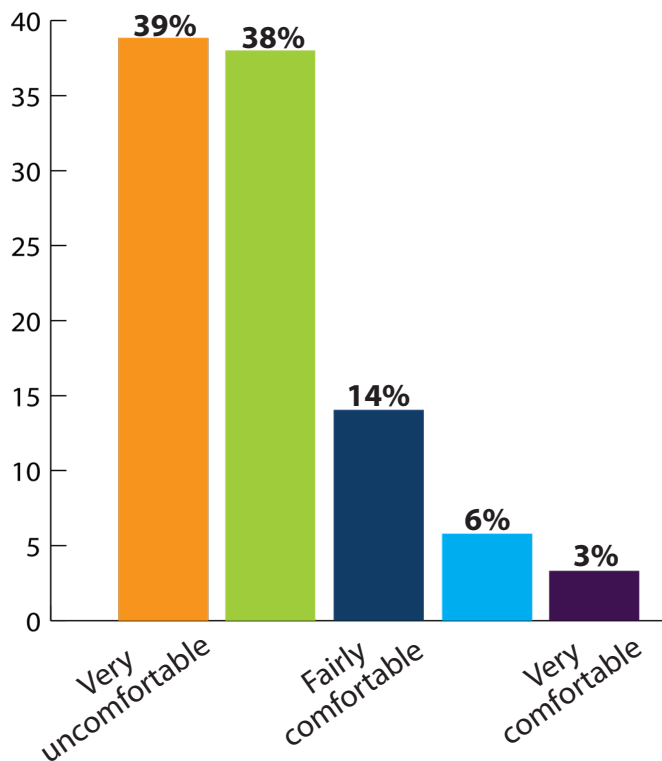
- too narrow and close to traffic
- not well-maintained (especially in winter)
- not accessible enough

Biking survey results

How often do you bike on Hennepin and First avenues?



How comfortable is your experience while biking on Hennepin and First avenues?



Common themes



Drivers don't watch for bikers



Heavy traffic and speeding makes bikers feel unsafe



The uncontrolled 1st and 5th intersection is dangerous



A dedicated bike lane or protected bike lane is needed



Bikers would bike more than they do now if there was safe infrastructure



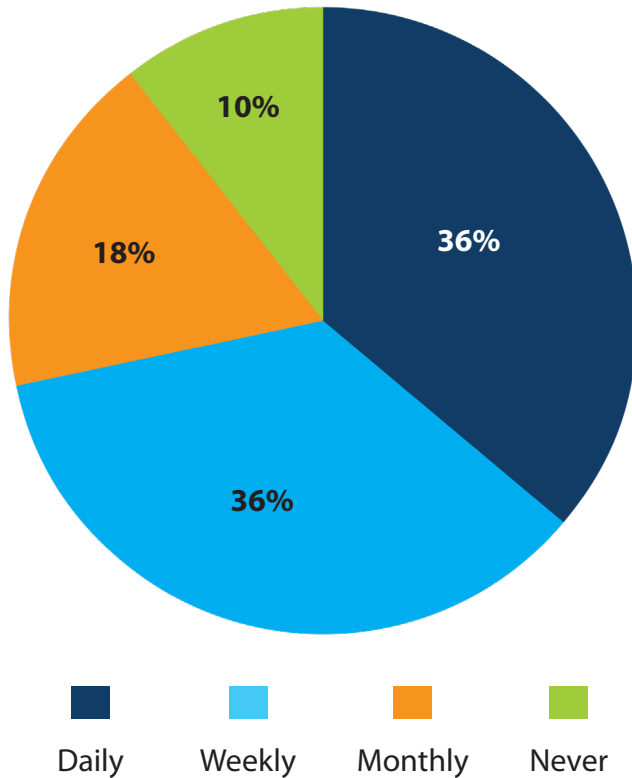
Convert Hennepin and First from one-ways to two-ways



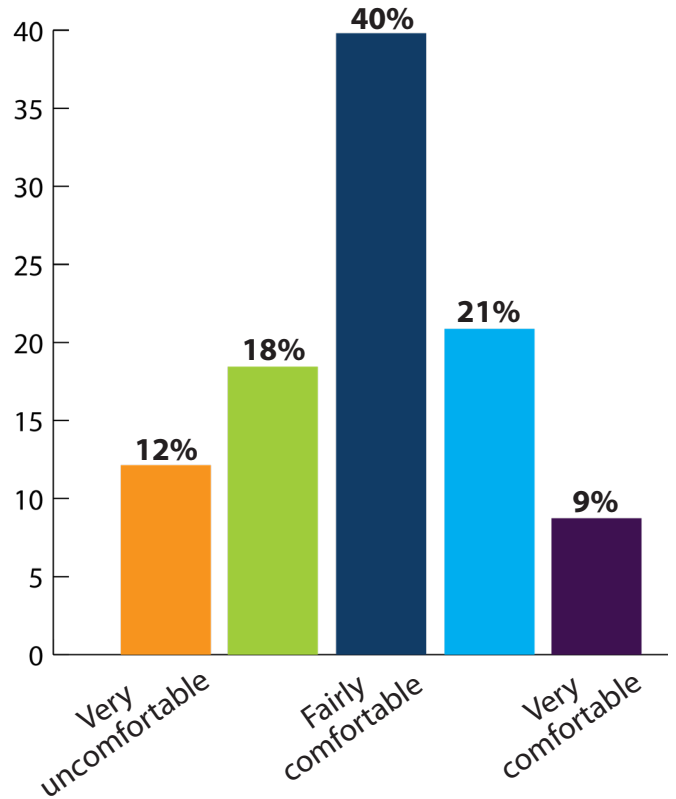
Bikers avoid biking in the project area or bike on sidewalks

Driving survey results

How often do you drive on Hennepin and First avenues?



How comfortable is your experience while driving on Hennepin and First avenues?



Common themes



Bad sightlines make it difficult to see walkers, rollers, and bikers



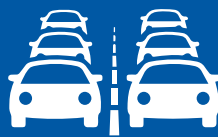
Traffic congestion and speeding are major issues



Concern about the traffic flow impacts of other construction projects in the area



Stoplights need better timing



Project area is confusing and difficult to travel through due to:

- complicated intersections
- one-way streets
- three lanes of traffic

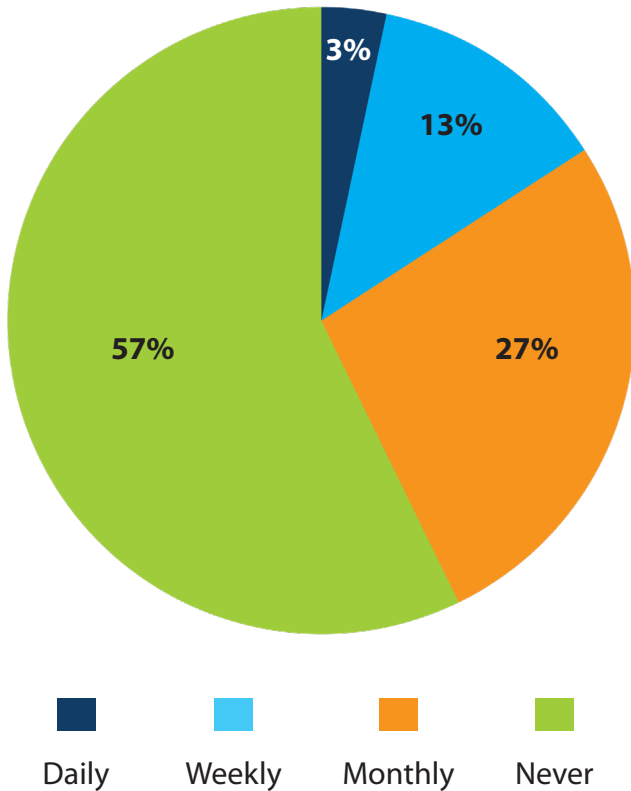


New housing developments have worsened traffic issues

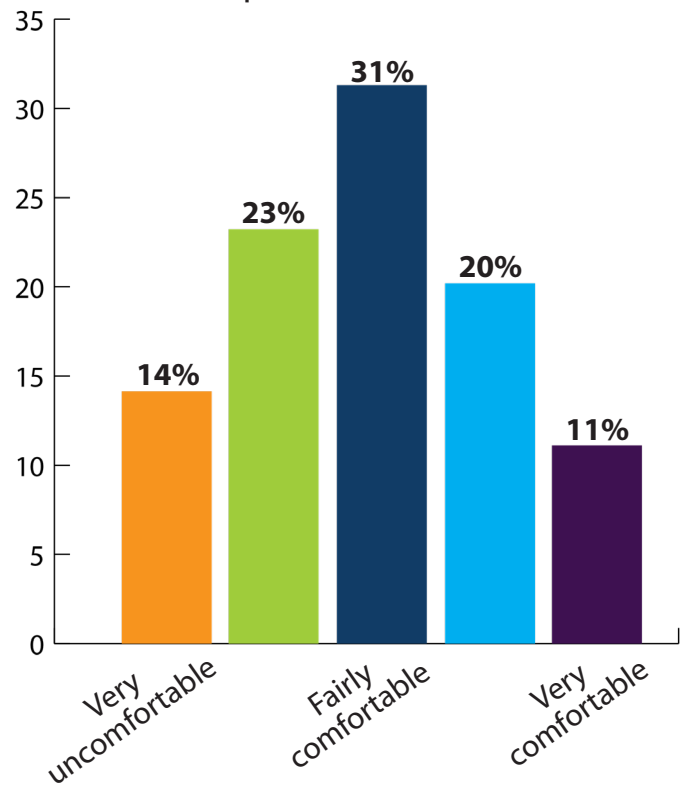
Public transit survey results

Please note that there was a large transit ridership decline in 2020 due to COVID-19 that may have impacted survey responses.

How often do you take public transit on Hennepin and First avenues?



How comfortable do you feel getting to and from your transit stops around Hennepin and First avenues?



Common themes



Need for more/
better bus stops
and shelters



Narrow sidewalks
make bus stops
cramped



Winter maintenance
of bus stops is an
issue



Bus stops need
better lighting



Requests for better route
details and electronic
signage



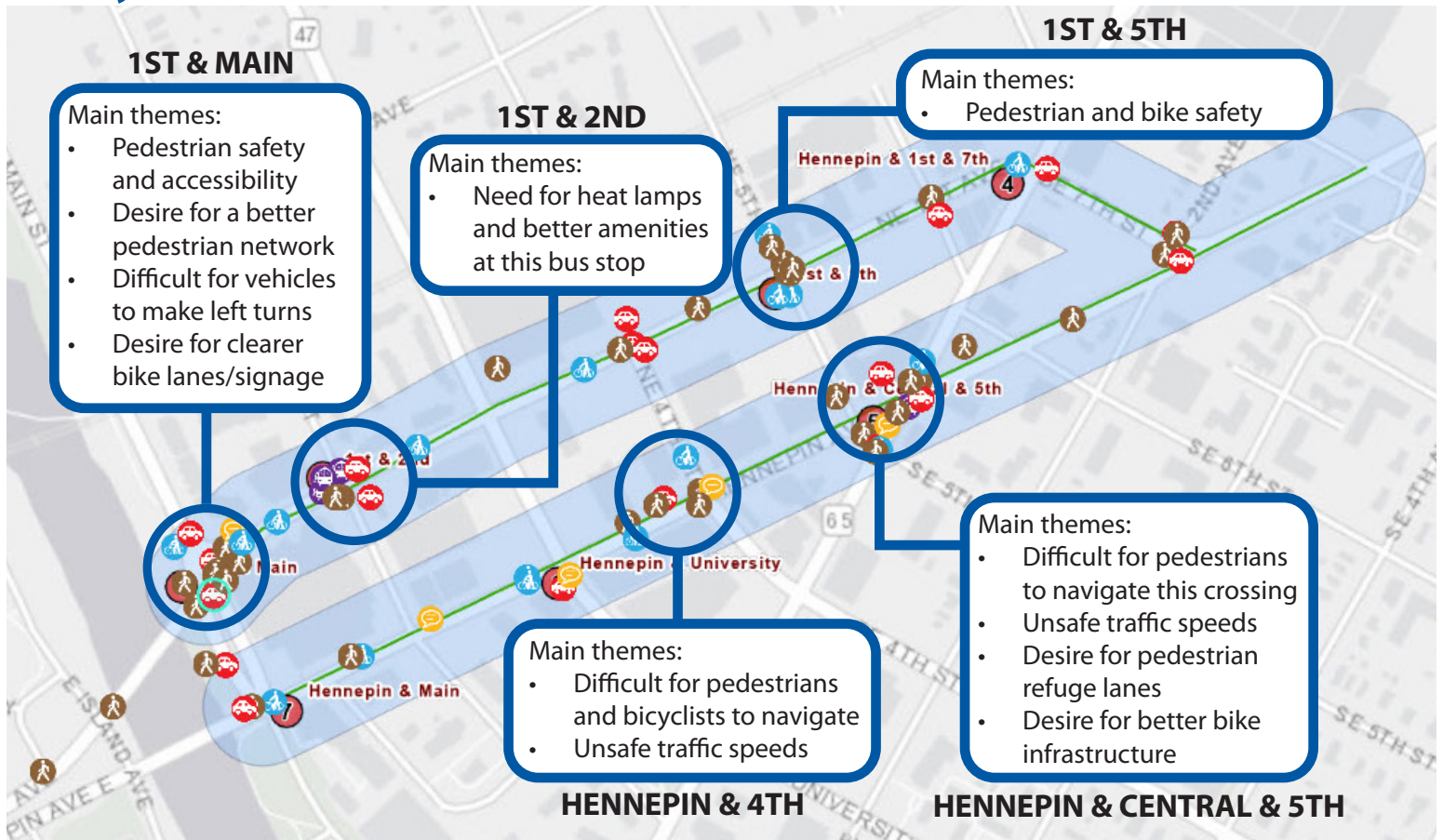
Better pedestrian
crossings would make
bus stops more accessible



A dedicated bus
lane is needed

Comment map summary

Key areas



Common themes



Drivers don't watch for pedestrians/bicyclists



Speeding is a concern



People desire better infrastructure for biking



Better lighting is needed



Pedestrian crossings are unsafe and difficult to navigate



Desire for more/better signage



Traffic calming measures are needed



Bus amenities are needed