

Hennepin and First roadway improvements

Listening session #2: corridor alternatives





Stay on mute during presentations



Use the chat box



Raise your hand if you have questions







Project partners













Today's meeting

- Project background and overview
- Community process and outcomes
- Technical analysis and corridor concepts
- Group discussion



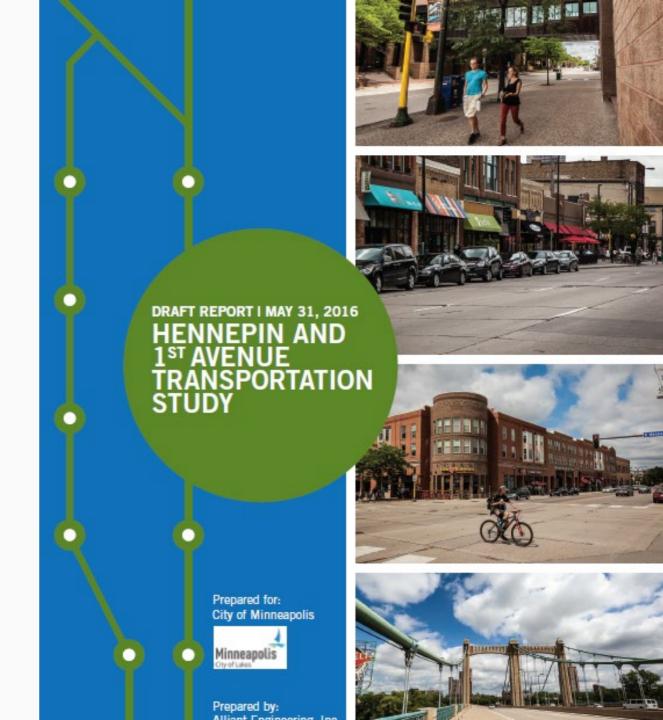




Project background

2016 Hennepin and 1st technical study

- Concepts developed to accommodate all users
- Did not result in a single recommendation
- Most remaining concepts require full reconstruction



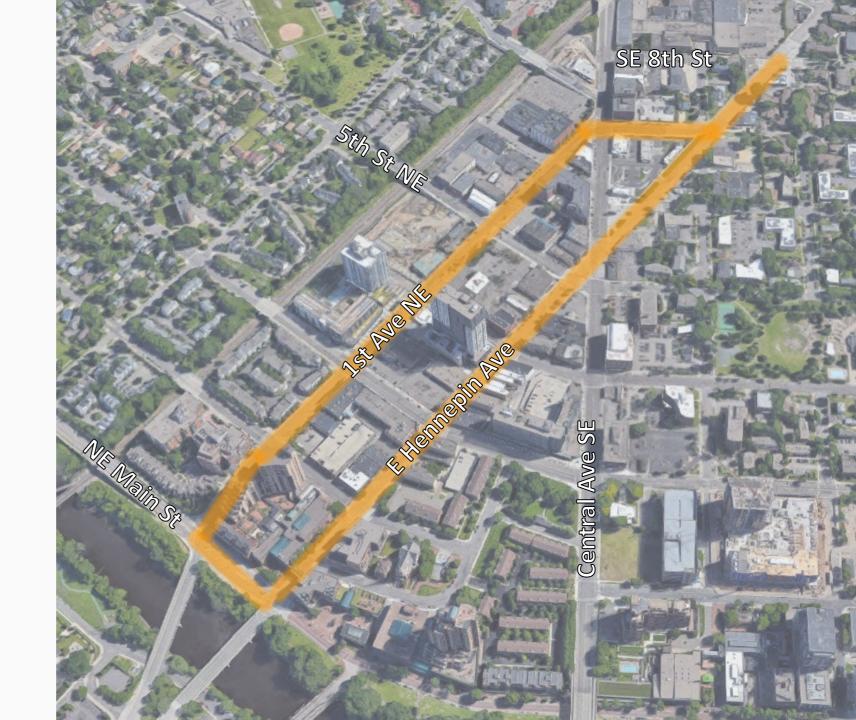
Project background

- Received \$5.5M in federal funding in 2018 for 2023 construction
- Funding secured based on:
 - Bike lanes
 - Accessible pedestrian ramps and bump outs
 - Traffic light upgrades, including accessible pedestrian signals
- Retrofit, not a full reconstruction



Project area

- 7 block stretch from Main St to 8th St
- "Gateway" to NE Minneapolis and northern suburbs
- Intersection of local, regional, and statewide transportation needs



Current project

- Consistent with federal funding requirements
- Exploring range of options
- Currently limited by retrofit scope



Project schedule



1/21 - 12/21

12/21 - Early 2022

7/20 - 12/20

Project goals













Engagement strategy and schedule



Phase 1 engagement (Nov 2020-Jan 2021)

Virtual corridor tour

Released November 11, 2020 Virtual learning materials

Released November 30, 2020 300 Survey responses

Neighborhood meetings

2,685
Email subscribers

4.
Agency
meetings

126
Online comment mapping comments

Social media posts

Community listening session

Held December 11, 2020

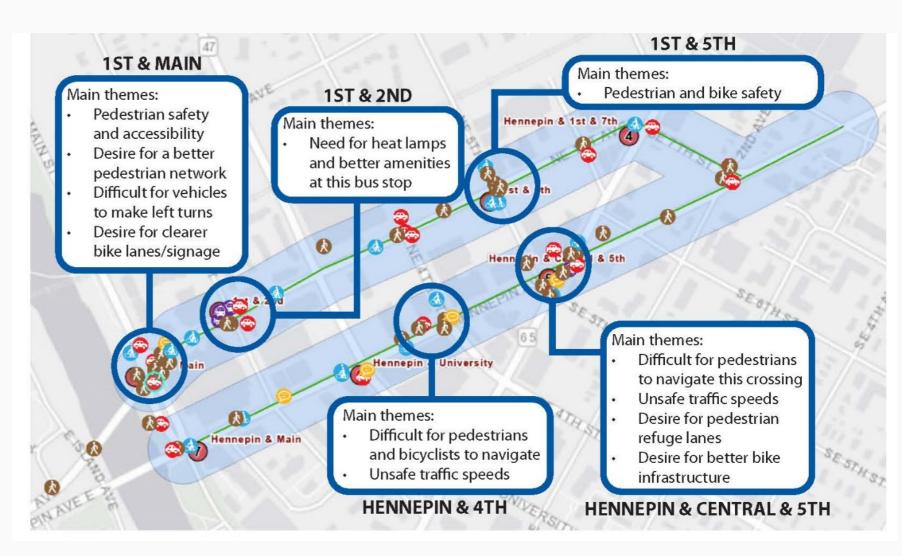
Phase 2 engagement to date

- Additional neighborhood meetings (5)
- Inclusion of trail on Main Street in partnership with MPRB
- arts-based engagement with students at Marcy Open School



Upcoming engagement

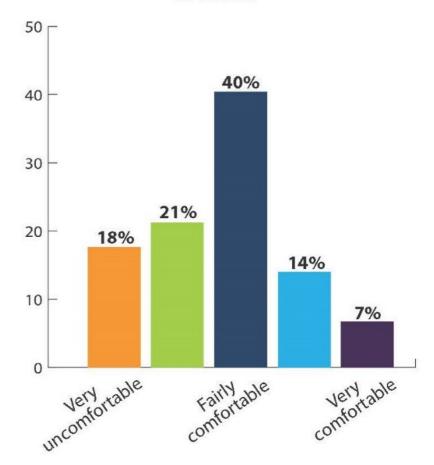
- Pop up engagement
- Targeted outreach
- Online engagement



Walking and rolling comments

- Traffic safety at crossings
- Pedestrian lighting
- Traffic calming needs
- Sidewalk conditions

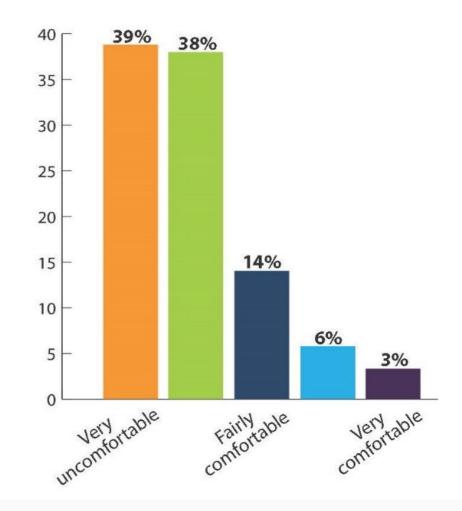
How comfortable is your experience while walking/rolling on Hennepin and First avenues?



Biking comments

- Need for dedicated lane
- Separating bikes and walkers
- 1st & 5th intersection safety
- Traffic speeds and volume

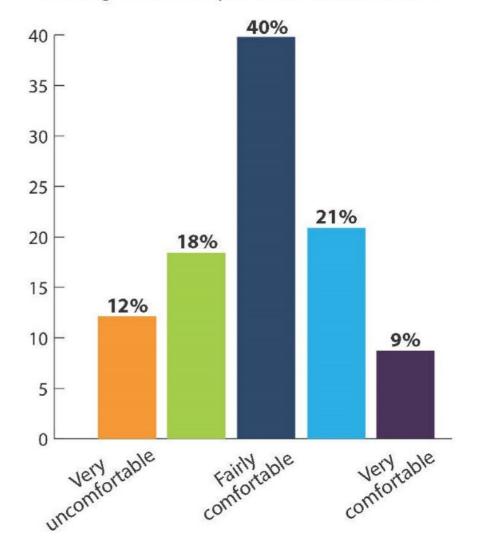
How comfortable is your experience while biking on Hennepin and First avenues?



Driving comments

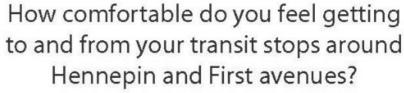
- Bad sightlines
- Traffic flow and speeding
- Confusing intersections
- Traffic signal timing

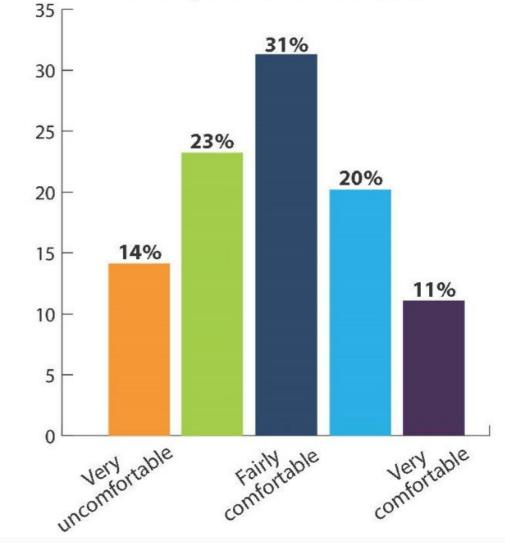
How comfortable is your experience while driving on Hennepin and First avenues?



Transit comments

- Improved bus stops
- Winter maintenance
- Better route signage
- Dedicated bus lane





^{*}Note: transit ridership declined by over 50% at many stops in the area during pandemic

Engagement themes to date



Safety and accessibility



Active living and walkability



Serving planned growth



Streetscape and public realm



Business district support



Public parking needs

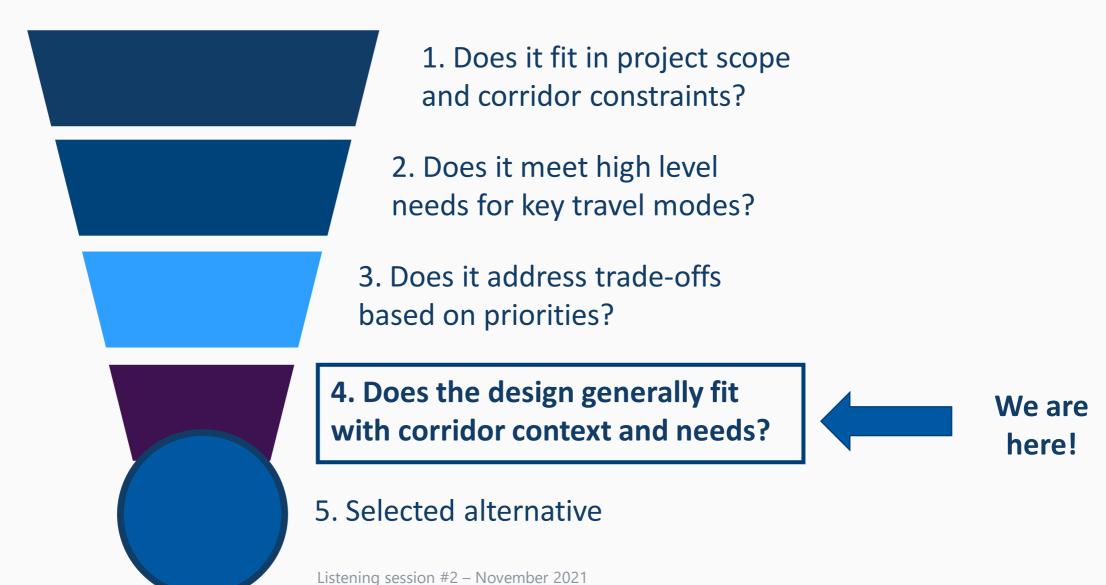




Challenge: two roadways, many options!

- 2016 study evaluated 88 roadway alternatives
- Current goal: efficiently screen options

Screening options



Corridor considerations

- Space limitations
- Modal priority
- Separation vs. flexibility of space
- Ongoing maintenance needs
- Long term vision, shorter term improvements



Key topics

- One-way streets
- Regional trail connection
- Green infrastructure and public realm
- Approach to triangle intersection
- On-street parking and curbside management
- Accommodating enhanced transit
- Preferred concept selection (early 2022)



1-way versus 2-way facility

Issue: How 1-way roadways can be safe and livable

- Improve accessibility
- Traffic calming
- Address pedestrian safety
- Streetscape enhancements

City design standards as a guide

- Context based
- Separated bike facility
- Wide sidewalks and boulevards
- Dedicated bus lane





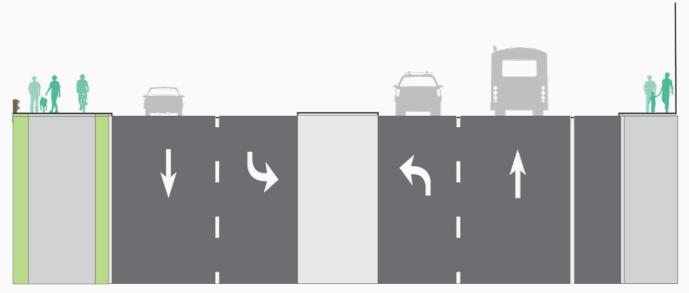
Regional trail connection

Issue: Completing gap in regional riverfront trail

- Main Street connection
- Partnership with MPRB "The Seam"
- Two-way multi-use facility
- Regional and local connectivity

Seam connection







Green infrastructure

Issue: Making corridor greener and more sustainable

- Space for streetscaping
- Stormwater treatment enhancements and other plantings
- Potential watershed partnership















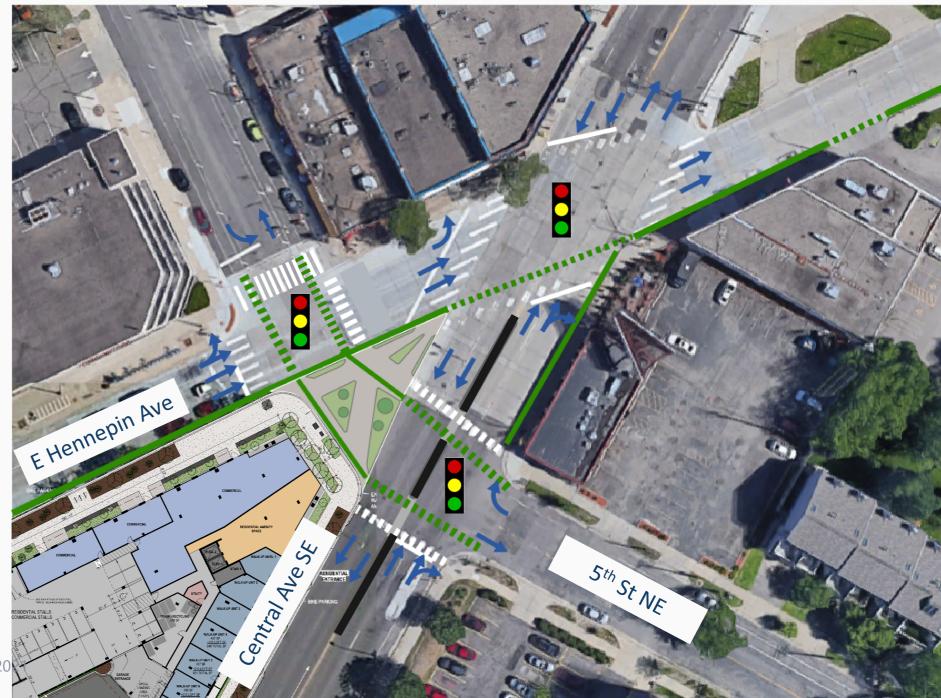
Triangle intersection

Issue: Improving the safety and accessibility of the triangle

- Improved pedestrian crossings
- Safer, more efficient movements
- Enhanced gateway area

Triangle Concept

Included in both concepts

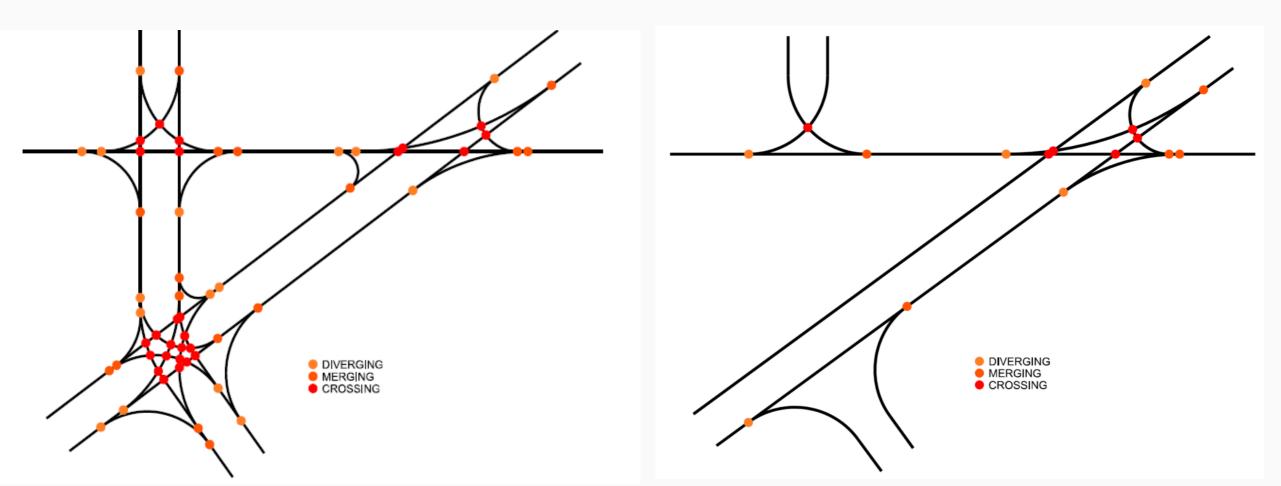




72% reduction in motor vehicle conflicts

58 existing motor vehicle conflict points

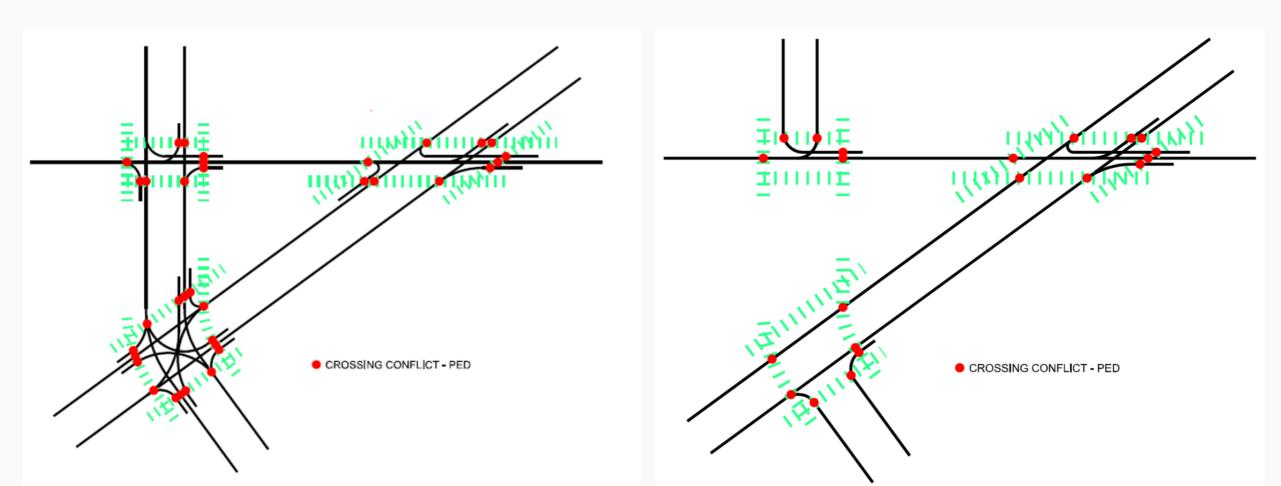
16 proposed motor vehicle conflict points



40% reduction in pedestrian conflicts

35 existing pedestrian conflict points

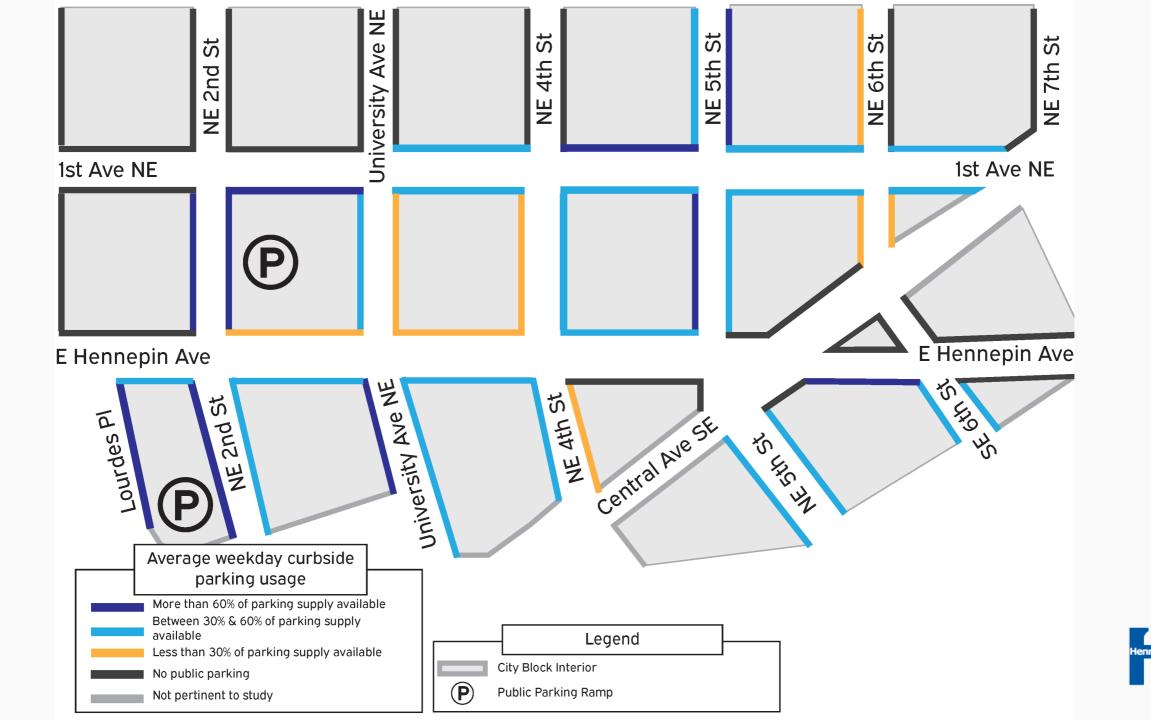
21 proposed pedestrian conflict points

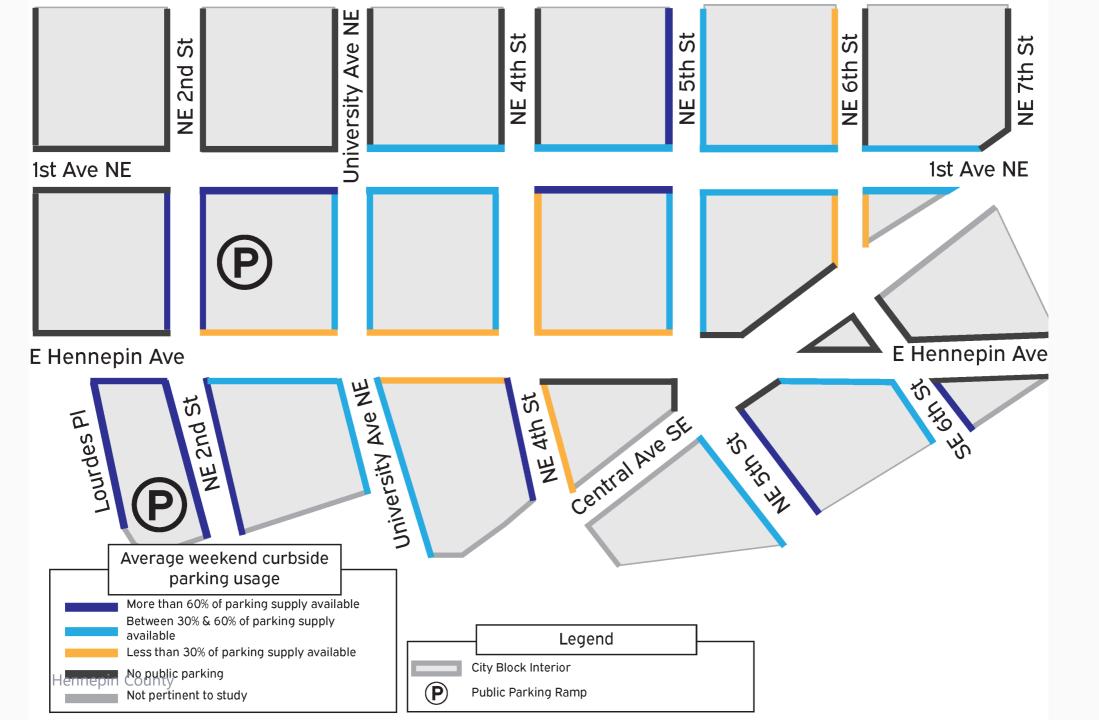


Managing curbside space

Issue: Effectively balancing demands for curbside space

- Transit facilities
- On-street parking
- Drop-off, loading, and deliveries







Accommodating transit

Issue:
Incorporating
enhanced transit
service

- Future E Line BRT
- Dedicated transit lanes
- Improved bus stops



Typical BRT station design



- Pylon markers help riders identify stations from a distance.
- Real-time NexTrip signs provide bus information, and on-demand annunciators speak this information for people with low vision.
- Shelters provide weather protection and feature push-button, on-demand heaters and shelter lighting. Shelter sizes will vary based on customer demand (small shown here).
- Ticket machines and fare card readers collect all payment before customers board the bus.

- Emergency telephones provide a direct connection to Metro Transit police. Stations also feature security cameras.
- Stations feature trash and recycling containers.
- Platform edges are marked with a cast-iron textured warning strip to keep passengers safely away from the curb while the bus approaches. Many stations also feature raised curbs for easier boarding.
- Platform areas are distinguished by a dark gray concrete pattern.

- Benches at stations provide a place to sit.
- Most stations have bike parking.

Some stations have pedestrian-scale **light fixtures** to provide a safe, well-lit environment.

At some stations, **railings** separate the platform from the sidewalk.

Concepts

Issue: Optimizing project benefits within limited scope

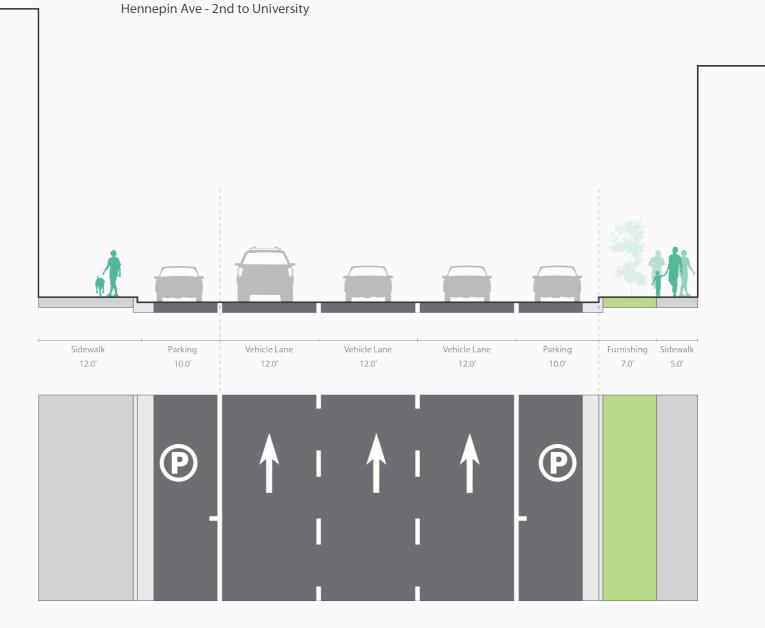
- Adding bike facility
- Curbside management
- Transit integration
- Long-term flexibility

Project evaluation criteria

- Equitable, safe, and health-promoting project
- Robust, sustainable, and inviting public realm
- Safe and high-quality pedestrian facilities
- Safe and connective bicycle infrastructure
- Continued and improved high-quality transit service
- Safe vehicle traffic operations
- Active and resilient business district
- Sustainable and implementable plan

Existing

- 3 travel lanes
- 2 parking lanes
- No bike facility

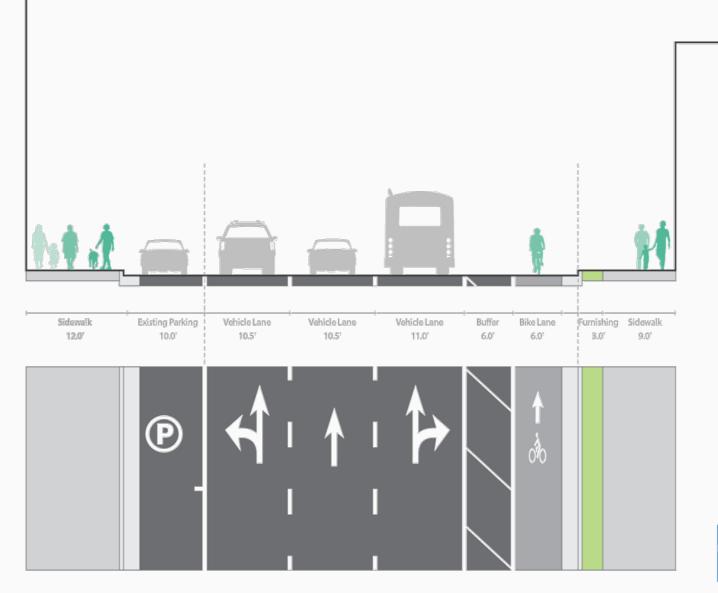


EXISTING ROW



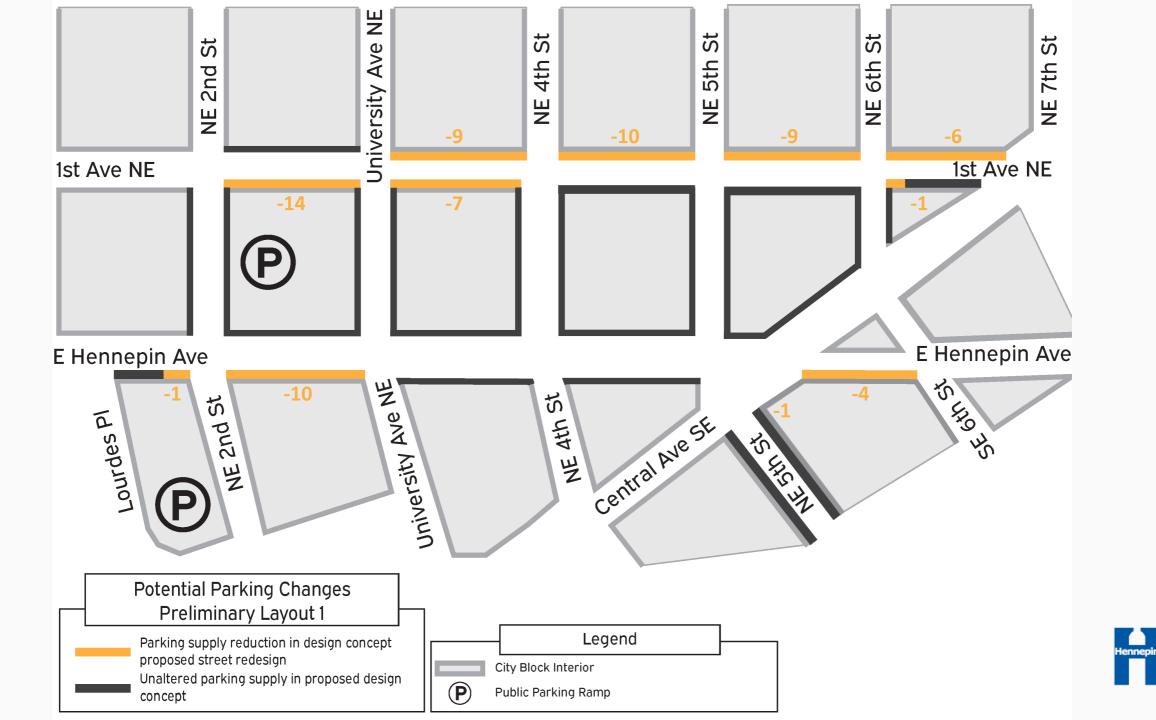
Concept 1

- 3 travel lanes
- 1 parking lane
- 1 buffered bike lane



PROPOSED CONCEPT 1
Hennepin Ave - 2nd to University



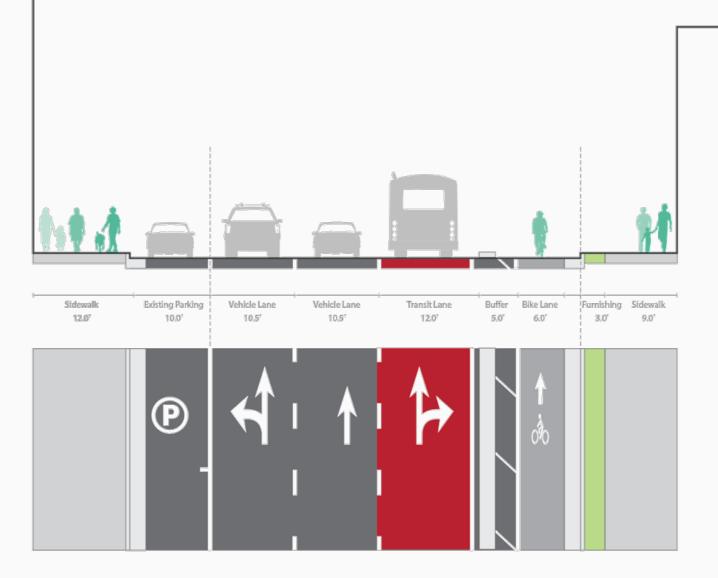


Concept 2

- 2 general travel lanes
- 1 transit lane
- 1 parking lane
- 1 separated bike lane

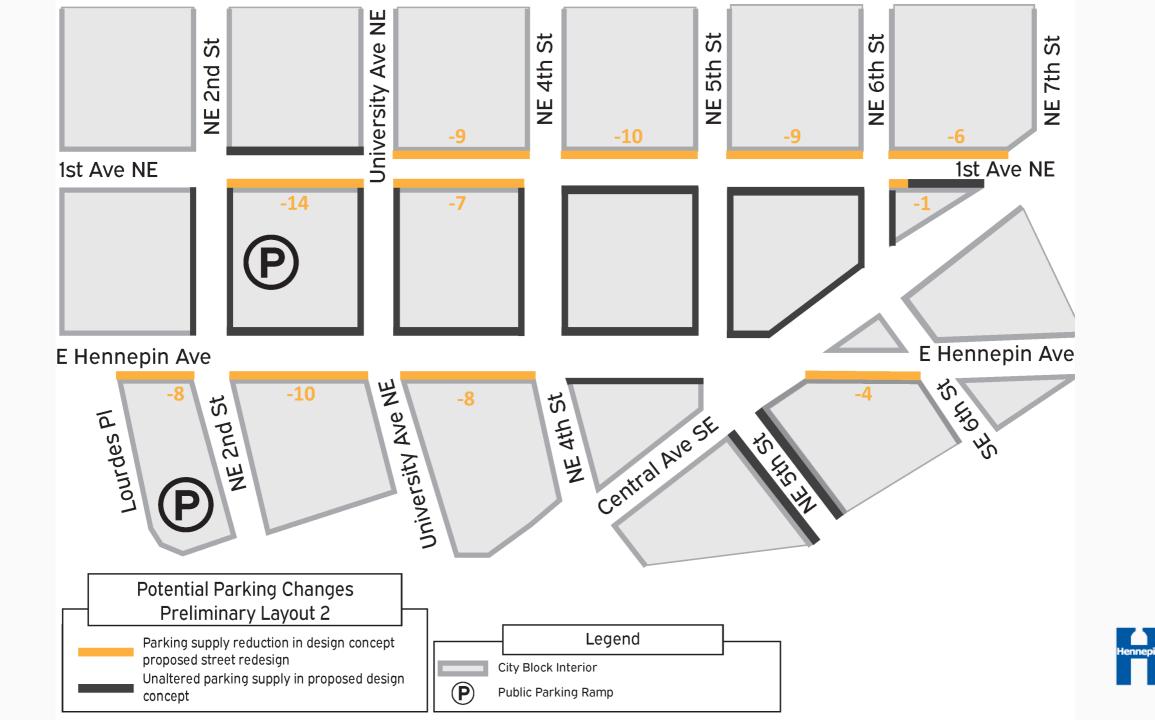
PROPOSED CONCEPT 2

Hennepin Ave - 2nd to University









Evaluation matrix

	Concepts		
	No build	Concept 1	Concept 2
Goal			
Equity, health, and safety	Poor	Fair	Good
Pedestrian facilities	Poor	Good	Good
Bicycle infrastructure	Poor	Fair	Good
Transit service	Poor	Fair	Good
Public realm	Poor	Fair	Good
Safe vehicle traffic operations	Poor	Good	Good
Business district	Fair	Fair	Fair
Sustainability / implementation	Poor	Good	Fair



Remaining decision points

- Bikeway type
- Transit lanes
- Streetscape priorities
- Coordination with other projects
- On-street parking impacts



Breakout rooms

15 minutes



Report back

15 minutes



Next steps

- Design refinement
- Targeted outreach
- Project update early 2022







Project contacts

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hennepin.us/ hennepinand-first Green streets with urban stormwater features

Green streets with rain gardens and bumpouts

