

Lowry Avenue NE reconstruction

Engagement summary

Background

Hennepin County is planning to reconstruct Lowry Avenue (County Road 153) between Marshall Street (County Road 23) and Johnson Street in Northeast Minneapolis. When complete, the corridor will include a smoother road surface, a shared use path for people walking, biking, and rolling, wider boulevards and improved pedestrian safety features. This engagement summary covers feedback heard over phase 2 project outreach.

Engagement events

The current phase of engagement involved gathering feedback and input on the corridor and design features through online tools and in-person events up to June 2024.

Project staff hosted an open house at the Bottineau Recreation Center on May 23, 2024. Participants were invited to share locational feedback about the corridor improvements through an online wikimapping tool.



Project staff engage with open house attendees.

Project schedule

Construction on Phase 1, between Washington and Johnson streets, is underway. Phase 2 is earlier in its design phase. Construction for Phase 2 could begin as soon as 2025.



Feedback themes and comments

The project team hosted a public open house on Thursday, May 23rd at the Bottineau Recreation Center.

Key takeaways from the open house:

21 comments from approximately 28 attendees were documented during the evening on boards, plots, and in staff notes. Comments included:

Support of design elements such as boulevards, shared use paths, raised crosswalks to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

Support preserving trees, incorporating native plants and rain gardens along the corridor.

Support for adding lighting, public artwork, benches, and bus shelters.

"Need more trees between Marshall and Grand and all along Lowry."

"The stretch of Lowry being reconstructed would make it safer and more pleasurable to bike to work."

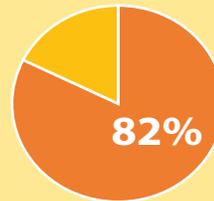
Assorted comments heard during open house engagement.



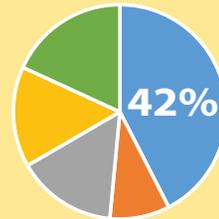
Boards and corridor layouts at the open house showed the Lowry Avenue designs.

Demographics

Demographic information was voluntarily collected at the open house:



The most represented zip code was 55418 which covers the entire project area



Most participants live on or close to Lowry Avenue and frequently travel along the corridor

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Want to learn more? Visit the project website at hennepin.us/lowry-avenue



Continued engagement

Engagement for phase 2 officially ended after the May 23 open house. However, seeing continued interest from the community in providing project feedback, the project team chose to keep the project wikimap open for public comment until July 19. Below is a summary of the additional comments received on the wikimap, after the original publication of the engagement summary in June.

Key takeaways from the wikimap:

Out of 150 comments...

67%

of all comments mention a desire for Lowry Avenue to be redesigned with facilities that would calm vehicular traffic.

44%

of all comments called out the need for bicycle and/or pedestrian safety improvements.

31%

of all comments described current travel along Lowry as feeling unsafe.

18%

of all comments call out vehicles making left-turns as a safety hazard.



Sample of comments received on the wikimap. Location of comment pinpoint is an approximation.

Business engagement

In June, the project team visited businesses located along Lowry Avenue between Marshall Street and Washington Street. At these meetings, the team shared information about the project and distributed surveys to collect information about business operations. Hennepin County will use the information collected from these meetings and surveys, along with other feedback, to support businesses along Lowry Avenue during construction.



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