

Cedar Avenue reconstruction

Focus group summary

During the first phase of conceptual design, four focus groups were held:

Cedar Avenue residents

East Phillips Park
June 20, 2023 | 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Businesses

Phillips Garden
June 22, 2023 | 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Spanish language

Banyan Community
June 22, 2023 | 5 – 7:30 p.m.

Little Earth

Little Earth Resident Association
June 26, 2023 | 5 – 7 p.m.

At these focus groups, participants were given a brief presentation about the road reconstruction from project staff. Participants were then encouraged to share about their experiences living, working and playing on/near Cedar Avenue (County Road 152), including strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement.

Key themes across all groups



Safety

- Cedar Avenue is a dangerous road, but unavoidable for this community.
- Primary safety concerns include speeding vehicles. Speed/impatience of drivers causes dangers for all, especially when drivers pull around those waiting to turn.
- General safety/security in the neighborhood is a concern. Better lighting is desired.



Pedestrian

- Cedar Avenue is dangerous for walkers and bikers. A pedestrian focus (particularly for children and those with disabilities) is desired, especially near Little Earth. Safer crossings, with longer lights are desired.



Parking

- Parking needs vary along the corridor.



Road design

- Traffic congestion on Cedar Avenue is a challenge, especially in the morning and afternoon/evening rush hours.
- Turning on/off Cedar Avenue is a challenge. There is poor visibility to turn onto Cedar Avenue, especially with parked cars so close to intersections. Turn signals and turn lanes are desired to reduce congestion when turning off of Cedar Avenue.



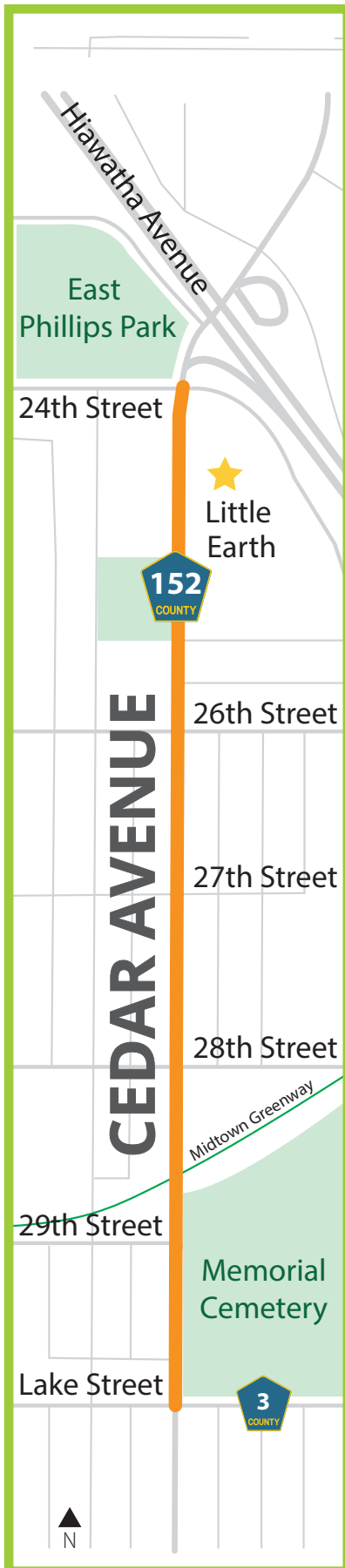
Community wellness

- Support for saving the trees. Concerns about pollution during construction.

Focus group participants were also asked to provide their feedback on the five project goals. Overall, focus group participants supported these goals, but would also like the following themes to also be incorporated into the project:

- **Neighborhood safety:** Incorporate design elements for crime prevention, such as more lighting and vegetation.
- **Cultural character:** Acknowledge the diverse cultures of the neighborhood, such as through public art.

Key locational themes



North of 24th Street

- Highway 55 exit north of 24th Street brings too much traffic down Cedar Avenue.
- Lights at 24th Street and 22nd Avenue are not working together. Backs it up all the way to Bloomington.

Little Earth crosswalk

- Desire for Little Earth crosswalk to be enhanced (brighter, wider markings, flashers, etc.). Suggest widening sidewalks - wheelchairs have to go into the street to get across near Little Earth.

25th Street to 26th Street

- Includes EM Stately Street. Many cars turn to get into Little Earth and Omega Place. There is no turn signal to get into the parking lot backing up cars close to Highway 55.

26th Street and Cedar Avenue

- 26th Street change from one-way to two-way at Cedar Avenue causes confusion. Similar comments to 28th Street and Cedar Avenue. Traffic doesn't stop and many pedestrians come out of the convenience store making it a hazardous area.
- People avoid walking in this area because of speeding cars.

26th Street to 27th Street

- Parking on both sides. People are confused by the one-way. The wait for the red light to turn left causes backups.

27th Street and Cedar Avenue

- People take 27th Street because it is not a one-way.
- Would like to maintain turning radius for loading/unloading trucks.

27th Street to 28th Street

- Narrowing road creates more congestion. Lots of backup from 28th Street all the way to 24th Street.
- Parking impedes visibility, especially for turning cars.

28th Street and Cedar Avenue

- Left turn at 28th Street is congested causing back up. Turn signals and turn lanes desired.
- 28th Street change from one-way to two-way at Cedar Avenue causes confusion and lots of traffic turning on Cedar Avenue. It was said that some people go on the wrong side of the road to turn left.

28th Street to 29th Street

- Day care here, so special attention to traffic safety and drop-off.
- Large apartment complex has a small parking lot and might require street parking.

29th Street to Lake Street

- Limited parking need along Memorial Cemetery. On Saturday mornings people park along here for church.
- More space for bus traffic north of Lake Street is desired.

Lake Street and Cedar Avenue

- Lack of turn signal causes backups and dangerous driving.

South of Lake Street

- Traffic starts to slow down south of Lake Street, increasing impatience of drivers by the time they are driving through this portion of the corridor.