

Park and Portland avenues safety improvements project

Phase 2 engagement summary | February – May 2025

Hennepin County is planning to make safety improvements on Park and Portland avenues (County Roads 33 and 35) between I-94 and E 46th Street (County Road 46). Public engagement for the Park and Portland safety improvements project aimed to equitably inform, consult, and engage area residents and stakeholders in the selection of a preferred design concept.

Phase 1 of engagement focused on collecting input on existing conditions and the roadway elements people wanted to see included in future plans. Phase 2 of the engagement focused on collecting input on the draft design concept.



How we got the word out

Phase 2 of engagement focused on collecting input through the following methods:

Open house

On Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Park Ave Methodist Church, an open house was held to share the proposed draft design concept and collect feedback from the public. More than 65 people attended the meeting and the project team received over 20 comment cards and over 90 comments on the proposed draft design concept layout.

Comment map










An online interactive map was offered to the public to provide feedback on the proposed draft design concept by dropping a pin on the map and leaving their comment. While the map was available from March 12 through June 2, over 270 comments were received.

Commissioner's Listening Session

The project team assisted Commissioner Angela Conley in hosting a listening session at Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota on May 28 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The event focused on the safety benefits associated with the proposed project improvements and continued to gather feedback from the public. More than 20 individuals attended, and the project team received four comment cards and about 90 layout comments.

Pop-up events

The project team hosted nine pop-up events around the project area to discuss the project with community members and reached a total of 388 people. Locations and events included:

	Midtown Global Market March 14
	Peace House Community March 21
	Ebenezer Apartments April 1
	Green Central Elementary School Pick April 9
	Metro Transit stop April 16
	Midtown Greenway April 26
	Minnehaha Duck Race May 3
	Green Central Elementary Spring Fling May 9
	Phelps Field Park May 12

How we collected feedback

Attendees had the opportunity to give their feedback on the project and proposed draft design concept in the following ways:



Online
comment
map



Comment
cards



Layout
comments



Verbal
comments to
project staff



Emails



What we heard

Hundreds of project layout comments and comment cards were collected over the course of this phase. These are the top four themes gathered:



Traffic safety & speed reduction

Suggestions to slow high-speed traffic included:

- decreasing the speed limit through residential areas
- narrowing lanes
- increasing enforcement
- adding curb extensions

Some expressed some safety concerns about narrowing the travel lanes



Bicycle & pedestrian infrastructure

Support for:

- protected bike lanes, with some comments requesting grade separation in addition
- improved pedestrian safety features, saying that it would be easier to cross the sides streets and Park and Portland
- Adding approaching bike signals at intersections

Some expressed concern that the proposed bike lane designs require cyclists to mix with pedestrians at intersections where curb extensions are planned.



Community and equity considerations

Many people raised concerns that the project feels like it's geared toward people who move through the area and not necessarily for people who live in the area. Others were pleased with proposed improvements and felt it would have a positive impact on the surrounding community.



Parking

Some concerns were raised about:

- parking availability being decreased in areas
- the safety of people accessing parked vehicles next to traffic or bike lanes
- congestion caused by the loss of parking spots, particularly around multi-family residences

Others were thankful for the proposed impacts to parking and thought that the plan prioritized all people rather than just those with vehicles.

Connect with the project team

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