

# ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY: PROJECT INTRODUCTION-SPRING 2022

## What Engagement Has Occurred?

Minneapolis Public Works hosted two public meetings and an online survey to introduce the 38th & Chicago, Re-Envisioned project to community stakeholders and hear their perspectives.



In-person public meeting  
April 23, 2022



Virtual public meeting  
April 26, 2022



Online survey  
April 15 - May 13, 2022

Minneapolis Public Works is conducting a community engagement process to re-envision the intersection and is evaluating how to reconstruct the roadways leading to this area.

## What We Heard

An online survey was open for public input from April 15 to May 13. The survey asked for community input on the engagement and design goals for the project. The survey also included demographic questions, an option to sign-up for email updates as well as a space to share general comments or questions about the project.

We received 527 survey responses, with a summary of these responses below:

### Demographics



**73 percent** of respondents replied that they live in the **55407 Zip code**. This zip code encompasses properties within the intersection of 38th and Chicago.



**59 percent** of respondents replied that they **racially identify as White Non-Hispanic**, and **32 percent of respondents identify as BIPOC**. These percentages closely match the demographics of the neighborhood.

### Connection to intersection of 38th & Chicago

- 51 percent** of respondents indicated that they **live within a few blocks of the intersection**.
- 54 percent** of respondents indicated that they **travel through the intersection**.
- 4 percent** of respondents indicated that they **own or operate a business in the area**.
- 5 percent** of respondents indicated they **work in the area**.

### Design Goals

The most important design goals identified by survey respondents are shown below in underlined text.

- Maintain Access for Residents and Businesses
- Redesign Street to Reflect Community Needs
- Explore Pedestrian & Transit Friendly Design Options
- Identify Space for Community Use
- Include Trees and Native Plants

### Engagement Goals

The most important engagement goals identified by survey respondents are shown below in underlined text.

- Create with the Community
- Develop Community Partnerships
- Support for Racial Healing
- Honor BIPOC Voices
- Conduct a Process that Promotes Learning

#### Contact

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 People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157.  
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## THEMES FROM PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The common themes below summarize the variety of comments collected through the public meetings and online survey. Each theme includes a general summary as well as select comments from participants that highlight the themes directly.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

Justice, anti-racist investments, atonement, and healing are common comments expressed by community stakeholders. The murder of George Floyd ignited a global awakening of the inequalities that exist in this country and world, and the intersection of 38th and Chicago continues to be an important place for the voices of community stakeholders that want continued social justice improvements. Community stakeholders also highlighted that a memorial for George Floyd and others should be a critical component for the area.

“My vision is that the space itself would **promote and be inviting for all community** to visit, reflect, patronize businesses and be a living, vibrant memorial but still recognizing that it is a neighborhood of families within south Minneapolis. A separate community space would seem out of place.” - *Comment from online survey respondent*

“This community needs a major focus on **healing from the tremendous pain and trauma** it has been through. This can't happen without addressing the core issue of MPD and lack of community trust/safety.” - *Comment from attendee of 4/23 Open House*

“**No justice, no streets!**”  
- *Comment from online survey respondent*

“When and where is a **permanent memorial** going to be erected at this intersection?”  
- *Comment from online survey respondent*

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety continues to be a critical concern expressed among community stakeholders. There are differing perspectives regarding what public safety means, but there is consensus that community stakeholders want to explore options for improving their safety and well-being.

“Please include **public safety** into these events. Pretty design does not make safe streets.”  
- *Comment from attendee of 4/23 Open House*

“**Safety for residents, businesses, business customers, and other visitors** has to be the number one priority for this project.” - *Comment from online survey respondent*

“Safety, safety, safety - for people who live and /or work in the community. **A sense of safety for community members and visitors must happen first** before any other plans are made; address all other concerns and plans!” - *Comment from online survey respondent*

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## ECONOMIC VITALITY

The economic health of businesses within the 38th & Chicago area continues to be a common concern raised by community stakeholders. The pandemic, murder of George Floyd, subsequent civil unrest and the closing and reopening of the intersection have all severely impacted local businesses. The businesses that remain continue to struggle through these challenging economic times.

“My primary concern is to focus on **support for businesses** located in the square.” - Comment from attendee of 4/23 Open House

“Create a functional road, and space that’s **conducive to economic activity.**” - Comment from online survey respondent

“**Businesses need to be able to prosper here.** They don't currently, but they need to.” - Comment from online survey respondent

## INFRASTRUCTURE (STREETS & SIDEWALKS)

Infrastructure comments mainly focused on the level of vehicle access that the intersection should allow. Ideas range from full vehicle access (transit, business deliveries, residential/business, parking, and emergency vehicles) to no vehicle access. Commenters that focused on no vehicle access tended to focus on preserving the intersection for pedestrians, art, memorials, and community gathering. Community stakeholders expressed concerns for the future of transit (D Line, Local Route 5 and 23) in the area.

“**Restore the buses,** like Nicollet Mall.” - Comment from attendee of 4/23 Open House

“My wish/hope for 38th & Chicago is for the space to be **safe for pedestrians and people who visit the memorial.** I'd like to see the space completely closed off to vehicular traffic. As it is designed now, I feel vulnerable to being hit by cars. There is no safe way to access the memorial site without walking in the same space for cars. I'd like to see a terminalized space where community can gather. Purchase the Speedway seems like a good option. Thanks for taking this effort to engage community.” - Comment from attendee of 4/23 Open House

“I would like to return the intersection to traffic flow, particularly **bus traffic to ensure a vibrant connection to the rest of the city.**” - Comment from attendee of 4/23 Open House

“Assuming this means automobile access, this is totally unnecessary. **The intersection should have remained closed to vehicle traffic and should be returned to that state.** At absolute bare minimum, a woonerf-type design with most of the traffic space surrendered to human use and only allowing transit and emergency access should be the result.” - Comment from online survey respondent

“**I do not think a major intersection should have people gathered in the street.** Community gatherings ideally should happen in separate spaces, parks, at the Speedway gas station if the city purchases it. But not in the middle of the street. Off to the side. An occasional block party or festival is fine but not a permanent gathering space.” - Comment from online survey respondent

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For a detailed record of all recorded comments from both open houses and the project survey, please contact the project team via the following email address ([38thandchicago@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:38thandchicago@minneapolismn.gov)). Please note that information provided will be shared as it was received and does contain inappropriate language.

## HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

Please visit the project website to learn more about upcoming events, provide your feedback, and stay up to date on project updates.

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/38th-chicago-ave/>

### Summer Engagement

As the project moves into the ‘Community Visioning’ phase, the project team will be hosting various engagement events. These events will gather input on what infrastructure needs are most important (pedestrian space, transit access, art, trees, parking, vehicle access, etc.). This will help inform the project team so that they can begin to develop design concepts to share publicly this fall.

**Need more information or would like to attend an event? Email us at [38thandchicago@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:38thandchicago@minneapolismn.gov)**

<b>Community Conversations (Virtual Office Hours)</b>	Starting Thursday, July 7th, the project team will host virtual office hours to continue conversations regarding the 38th & Chicago, Re-Envisioned project. Please reach out to us directly to reserve a time slot. If these times do not work, please email us and we can coordinate another time to connect. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesdays from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.</li> <li>Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.</li> </ul>
<b>Focus Groups</b>	Starting in July, the project team will host small group discussions with community stakeholders that live/work within the area of 38th & Chicago. Focus group participants will engage in conversations that identify and prioritize key design elements. The project team will use this information to further inform intersection design priorities. If you would like to participate, please contact the project team to be included.
<b>Pop-Up Engagement Events</b>	Pop-up events are opportunities to engage with stakeholders in creative and interactive ways. Project team staff will be available to answer any questions and to also gather input on intersection design priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onyx Coffeehouse (formerly FORREAL Coffeehouse), 3740 Chicago Ave</li> <li>Saturday, July 16th from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.</li> </ul>
<b>Invite Us To Your Events</b>	The project team is also interested in attending existing community events to share information about the project and gather feedback. If you or an organization are hosting an event this summer, please reach out to us.
<b>Learning Tables</b>	Later this summer, the project team will host its first Learning Table, which will provide an overview of the four topic areas of <b>social justice, public safety, economic vitality, and infrastructure</b> . These four areas have emerged as key themes from community engagement and the project team will be conducting monthly Learning Tables to dive further into these topics and their connection to the 38th & Chicago Re-Envisioned project. Comments and suggestions will be taken into consideration for future learning tables.
<b>Open House</b>	Later this summer, the project team will host another round of virtual and in-person public meetings. These meetings will highlight summer engagement activities and provide attendees with the opportunity to provide input on intersection design priorities. This information will inform the project team as they develop design concepts to share in the fall.

### Conceptual Design Schedule



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