

# PROJECT BACKGROUND

**Background:** On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer at the intersection of 38th and Chicago. Since his death, the area has become a gathering space for racial healing and reflection. Minneapolis Public Works will reconstruct the intersection after conducting a community engagement process to re-envision the intersection.

The streets of 38th Street East and Chicago Avenue South were built in phases between 1957 and 1963 and have exceeded their useful life. Residents and businesses have also faced access challenges while traveling in the area given the expansive memorial and artworks. Given the age and condition of the streets, as well as evolving uses within the space, a reconstruction is necessary to support a re-envisioned intersection.

## Project Intent:

- This project will seek to balance traditional asset management needs with the intersectionality of justice, healing, placemaking and culture.
- Public Works and community stakeholders will evaluate a range of options that represent transportation, utility, and community-centered public realm needs.
- The reconstruction project will involve the entire public right-of-way and will include new sidewalks, ADA pedestrian ramps, pavement, curb and gutter, lighting, and utility improvements.
- This work will also thoroughly consider and explore the integration of METRO D Line bus rapid transit and local bus service on routes 5 and 23.

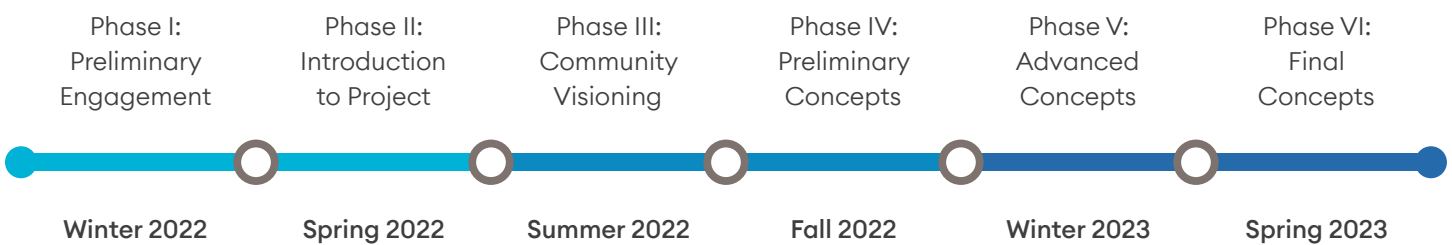
## Existing Image



## Project Area



## Conceptual Design Schedule



### Contact

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# ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

We recognize that there is a strong desire for an intentional, robust, and honest community engagement process. The activities below provide a variety of opportunities for

community stakeholders to provide input and influence the development of design concepts for the area.

## Engagement Goals



Support for  
Racial Healing



Honor BIPOC  
Voices



Develop  
Community  
Partnerships

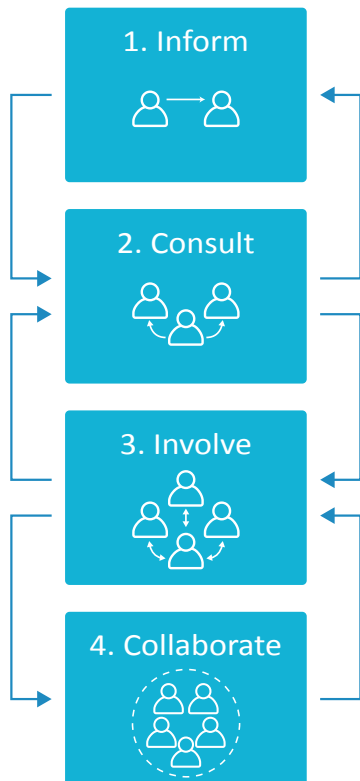


Create with the  
Community



Conduct a Process  
that Promotes  
Learning

## Spectrum of Engagement



## Primary Engagement Activity

**Project Website:** The City of Minneapolis will continue to develop the project website with up to date information regarding the project. We will also provide mailings with project information.

[www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/38th-chicago-ave/](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/38th-chicago-ave/)

**Listening Sessions:** Interviews with community stakeholders to confirm the project goals, vision, and future community engagement efforts.

**Community Meetings (Open House):** Meetings at each stage in the project with community stakeholders to discuss the future design.

**Focus Groups:** Small group discussions with community stakeholders and the project team to discuss the future design.

**Learning Tables:** A place where community residents, stakeholders, and the project team work in partnership to design the 38th and Chicago intersection to ensure community benefits.

**Community Co-Creation Team:** A team of community stakeholders will be formed to ensure community interests are represented in design concepts.

# DESIGN PROCESS

Design concepts are used to spatially allocate the public Right of Way (ROW) for people who may be traveling by foot, bike, vehicle, or transit and incorporate how people access homes, businesses, and public spaces such as

parks. The community engagement and design process will produce multiple concepts which will convey how the roadways of 38th and Chicago can be designed.

## Design Goals



Redesign  
Street to Reflect  
Community Needs



Identify Space for  
Community Use



Explore Pedestrian  
& Transit Friendly  
Design Options



Maintain Access  
for Residents and  
Businesses



Include Trees and  
Native Plants



## City Policies

The design process will incorporate existing City of Minneapolis policies:

- [Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Complete Streets Policy](#)
- [Street Design Guide](#)
- [Transportation Action Plan](#)
- [Vision Zero](#)

## Memorial Design

This project will not be designing a memorial but will reorganize the street and surrounding public space within the ROW to accommodate a future memorial(s). The forthcoming memorial process will be closely coordinated as a separate but parallel effort from this project.

# WHAT WE HAVE HEARD

## LISTENING SESSIONS SUMMARY

**Background:** Minneapolis Public Works, Public Policy Project and NEOO Partners conducted a series of Listening Sessions with thirty community stakeholders (residents, community leaders, business owners). These activities occurred in the form of interviews and focused on understanding stakeholders' experiences and desires for the

intersection of 38th & Chicago. The goal of these interviews was to aid in refining alignment with the project goals, vision, and future public engagement efforts, which are planned to occur in 2022. This document summarizes the feedback received from these interviews which occurred from December 2021 to March 2022.

## Key Findings

The following summary highlights common ideas expressed through interviews with community stakeholders.

### Project Desires

- **Support & Hope:** There is general support for this project to begin and a hope that it can help the community move forward in a positive manner.
- **Community Influence:** Engagement opportunities should allow community stakeholders to influence project decisions.
- **Clear Communications:** Communications should be clear and frequent throughout the duration of the project.

### Intersection Design Perspectives

- **George Floyd Square, a Sacred Space:** George Floyd Square is a sacred place that should be respected and preserved for future generations.
- **Intersection Redesign:** Despite varying perspectives on how the intersection should be redesigned, there is a common and consistent desire to allow all community stakeholders to provide input on design options.
- **Reduced Vehicle Traffic:** There is a common desire for reduced vehicle traffic in the area.
- **Public Space:** Preserving public space for gathering within George Floyd Square is important to many community stakeholders.

### Additional Needs

- **Trauma & Healing:** Many community stakeholders continue to experience trauma from the reverberations of the death of George Floyd. The project team understands that it is imperative to integrate healing components into this project.
- **24 Demands for Justice:** There are varying perspectives on how well the City of Minneapolis has accommodated the 24 Demands for Justice. Some think the City has done enough, others think the City should be doing more.
- **Protecting Local Businesses:** Concerns have been expressed about the impact on businesses, especially Black owned businesses. Many of these businesses have closed and the few that remain open are struggling. They need resources to help them survive through these challenging economic times.
- **Public Safety is an Issue:** Many community members have expressed safety concerns from a crime and transportation perspective. Crime has been a historic issue in the area, but transportation safety concerns (reckless driving and impacts to pedestrian safety) have become more prevalent in the area since the death of George Floyd.
- **Investments:** There is a need for investment in the improvement of the overall appearance of the intersection which includes improved lighting, transportation services, street cleaning, building facades and greenspace (trees, grass, flowers).

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

With a desire to engage and be welcoming to the community, a number of engagement activities will be available for your participation in the coming weeks. Please check the project website periodically or sign up now for an activity.

Your participation will be critical so that the intersection will be a reflection of the community. Please let us know additional ways you would like to participate.

## 12-Week Look Ahead Schedule

### Phase II: Introduction to Project (Spring 2022)

- Public Meeting #1 (physical): April 23
- Public Meeting #1 (virtual): April 26

### Phase III: Community Visioning (Summer 2022)

- Focus Group meeting #1: June
- Public Meeting #2 (physical & virtual): July
- Learning Tables: July, August
- Community Co-creation Team
  - Schedule to be determined

## Where Will You Participate

Place a dot where you would like to participate.

Learning Tables

Focus Groups

Co-Creation Team

## Provide Feedback on Engagement and Design Goals

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Please complete survey Online at project website.

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