

Phillips Traffic Safety Improvements

Summary of Engagement in summer and fall of 2021

The City of Minneapolis held the first round of community engagement for the Phillips Traffic Safety Project in the summer and fall of 2021. Staff collected information via tabling at community events, online surveys, holding in person and online meetings, and various other community outreach.

More general information about the project is available at: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/projects/phillips/>

Engagement Approach

Public Works staff used several methods for collecting information from stakeholders:

- **Participating in community events and meetings:** Public Works staff attended existing community events in collaboration with local organizations, such as neighborhood associations, Waite House, Little Earth, and Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES). Staff collected comments about specific intersections as well as general comments on traffic safety in the neighborhood.
- **Holding Community Events:** Public Works staff held online and in-person engagement events, including community walks, an online open house, and in-person meetings.
- **Online Survey and Mapping Tool:** Public Works used an online survey and mapping tool where respondents could share concerns and ideas.

Inclusivity and Equity Measures

The Phillips neighborhood has a large population of non-English speaking residents. Given these circumstances, staff took measures to reduce barriers to engagement, including printing materials in multiple languages (English, Somali, and Spanish), presentations in multiple languages, and tabling at events and locations that cater to certain communities. Areas and events included tabling/meetings at Little Earth, Mercado Central, Waite House, the 24th Street Mall, 13th Avenue Mall and Anderson School/Stewart Park.



Summary of Findings

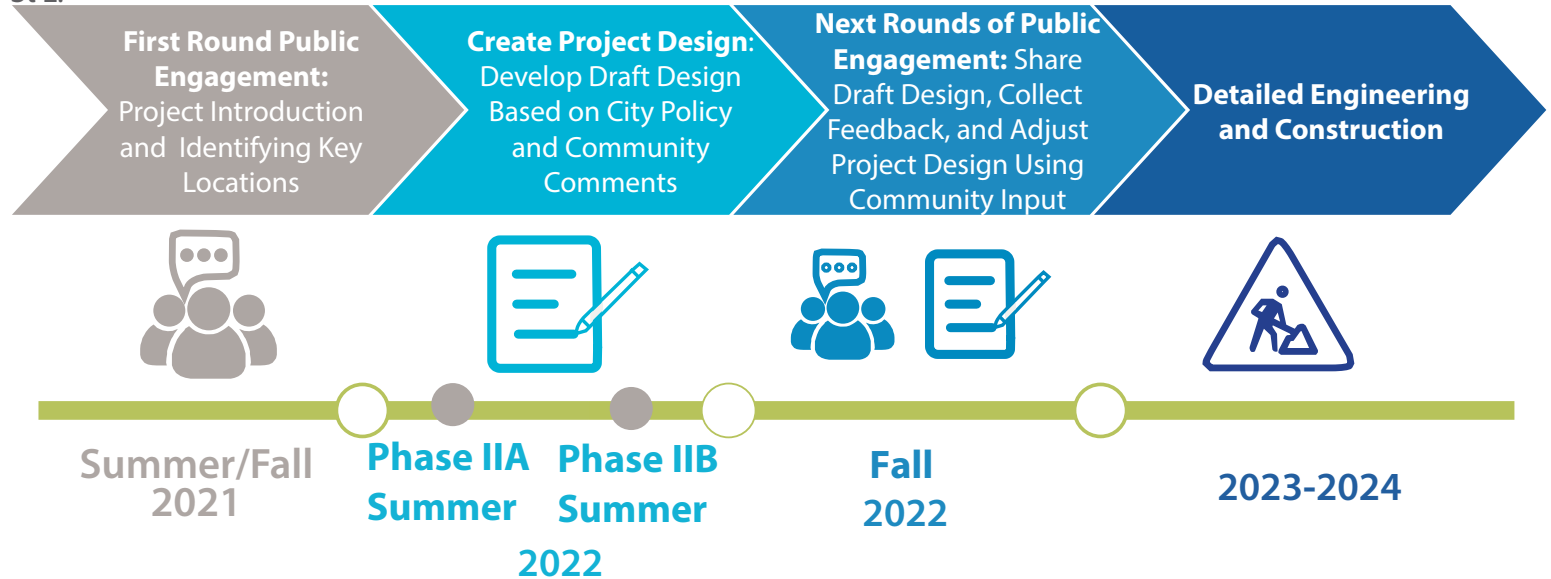
- Public Works received 351 comments on the project during the first round of engagement. Of these comments, 286 were about existing concerns and 65 were requests for various traffic safety improvements.
- Most of the comments, 257, were received during in-person events, while 94 comments were received via online sources.
- The most common concerns residents shared were related to speeding (47 comments), sight issues (33 comments), and unsafe conditions for biking (32 comments)
- The locations with the most common comments were 26th Street/Cedar Ave (22 comments), 28th Street/Cedar Ave (13 comments), and 24th Street/Cedar Ave (12 comments)
- The most frequent requests around treatments were for changes to signage or street striping (15 comments), additional bike separation from vehicles (13 comments), and changes to traffic patterns (nine comments).

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Next Steps

The project will be approaching Summer conceptual design in two phases as indicated on the project schedule above. Phase IIA will begin with the 24th St E improvements and Phase IIB will encompass improvements on 26th St E and 28th St E.



Engagement Findings

Three themes emerged through this round of engagement: reckless driving, bicycle/pedestrian issues, and request for street improvements. Below is more information about each theme.

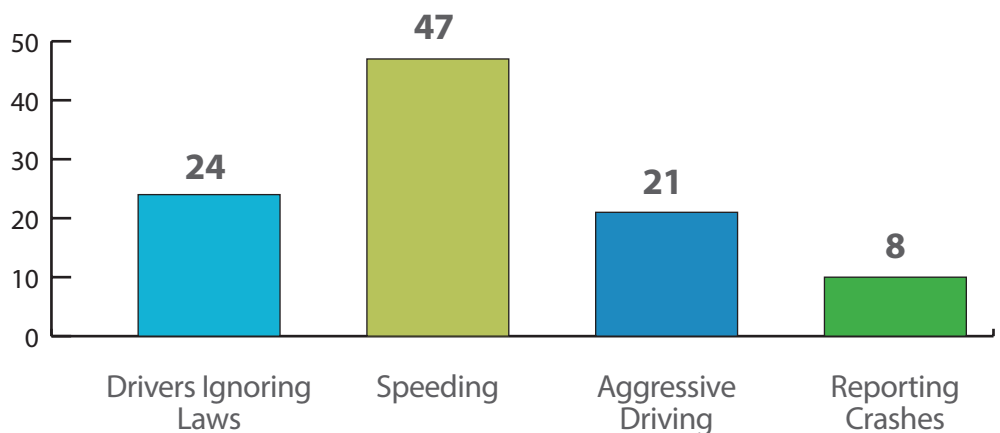
Reckless Driving

Aggressive driving was mentioned by many of the people who left comments. Reckless driving was divided into four sub-categories: drivers ignoring laws, speeding, aggressive driving, and reporting crashes.

Aggressive driving includes comments such as drivers tailgating, purposely driving against 1-ways to reach areas more quickly, and turning without regards to other drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Reporting crashes refers to people commenting about crash history at certain locations.

Reckless Driving Comments by Type



For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats, please contact:

Trey Joiner, Minneapolis Public Works Department at 612 - 271 -8684 or Phillips.Traffic@minneapolismn.gov

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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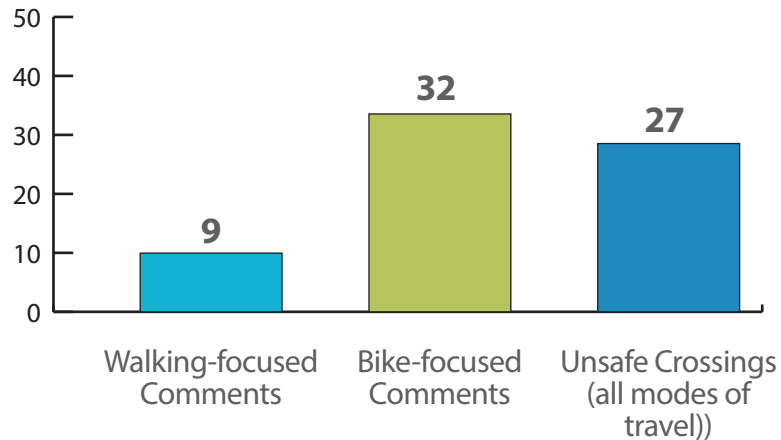
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Biking and Walking

There were many comments from community members about biking and walking in the neighborhood. Common themes included people feeling uncomfortable due to speeding, issues crossing, difficulty walking during winter, and concerns about children walking. Comments about biking included cars driving and parking in the bike lane, and turning cars not yielding to those bikes crossing the street.

Comments about unsafe crossing refer to all modes of travel.

Biking and Walking Comments by Type



Street Improvements

There were a number of comments focused on concerns about street design elements such as parking, lighting, signage, and street striping. Here's some examples of how these comments were categorized:

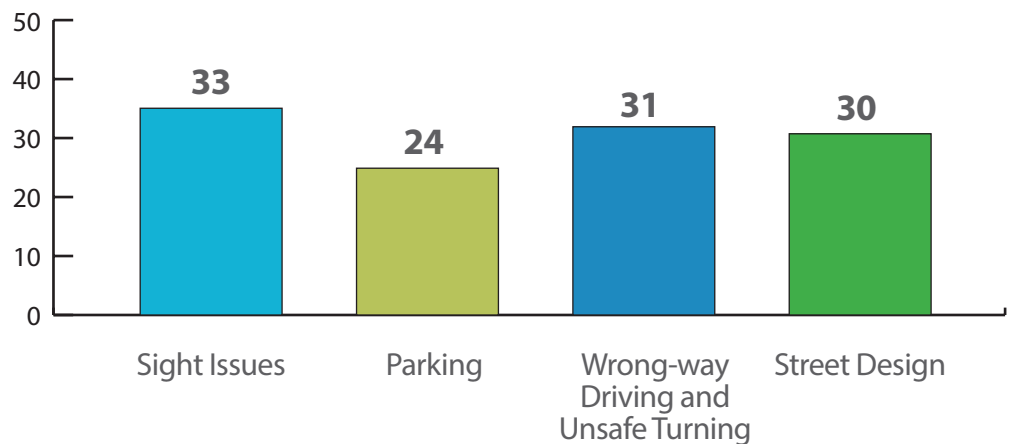
Sight Issues includes comments about lighting and parked cars making it hard to see approaching traffic.

Parking Issues includes illegal, cars double parking, trouble finding and parking near businesses.

Wrong-way driving and unsafe turning refers to vehicles traveling in the wrong direction on one-way streets and cars not yielding to people biking or walking when the car is turning.

Street Design comments included requests for more stop signs, calls to change 26th and 28th Streets to two-way travel for vehicles, and requests for various traffic safety improvements like bump outs, medians, and signage/striping improvements.

Street Improvement Comments by Type



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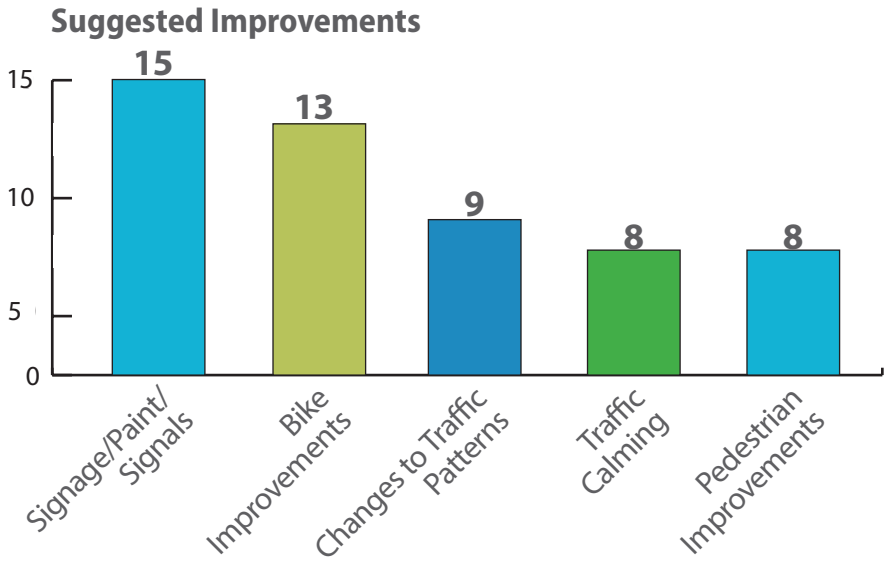
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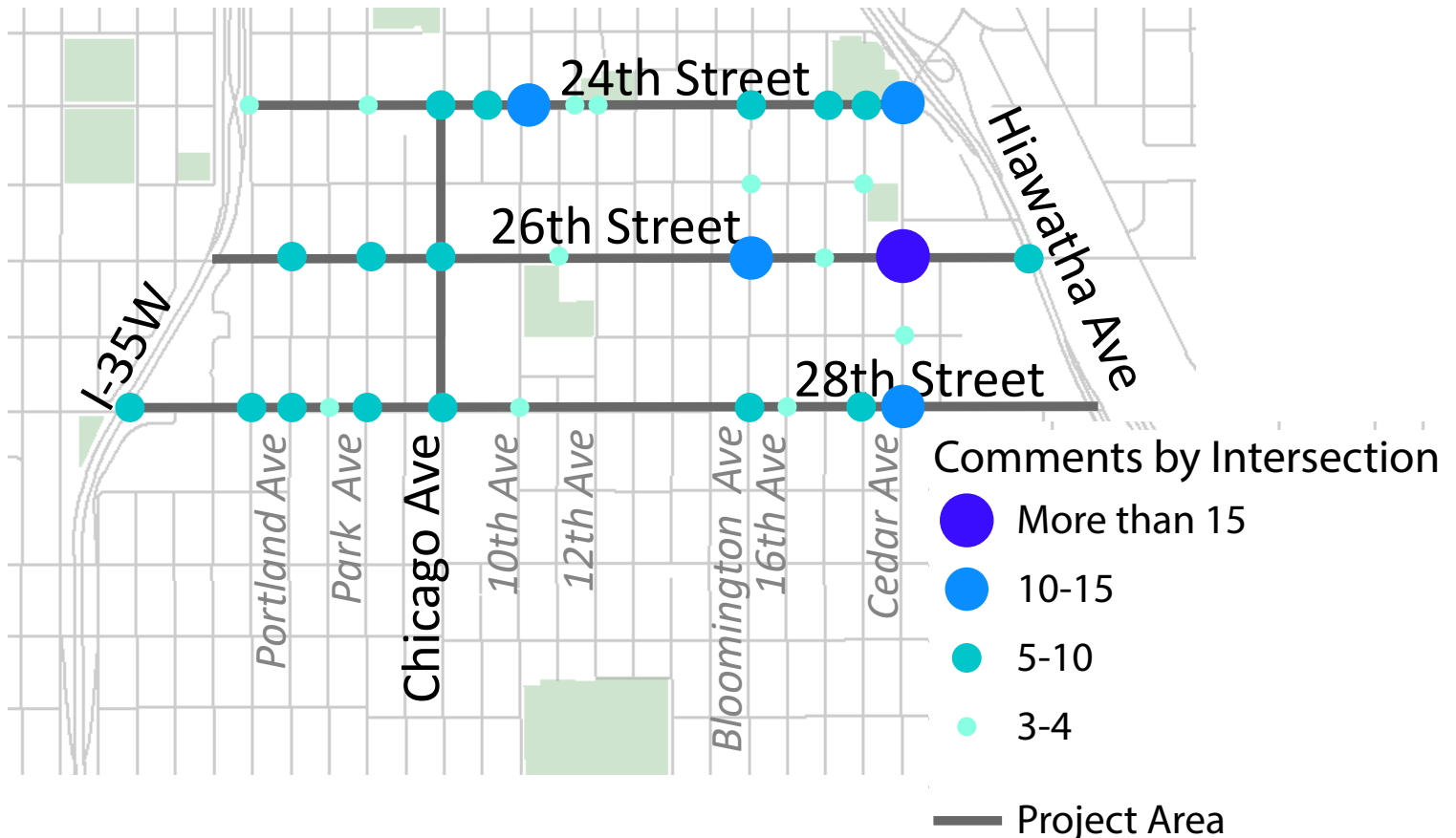
Suggested Improvements

The graph to the right shows the types of improvements suggested by residents. While most of the comments are related to traffic safety, there were also a number of comments about beautification.



Location of Comments

The map below shows comments by intersection. Many comments did not include information about specific locations, and so were not mapped. In addition, locations with fewer than three comments are not shown. Signalized intersections (such as along Cedar Ave, Bloomington Ave, and Chicago Ave) generally received the most comments. Several of the streets with high numbers of comments - Cedar Ave, Park Ave, and Portland Ave - are owned by Hennepin County. Minneapolis Public Works will share these comments with staff from Hennepin County.



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