

Open House Summary

Open House | November 17, 2022

The intent of the open house for the Delaware Avenue and School Travel Safety Improvements was to inform the public about the project and solicit feedback regarding different options and improvements being considered with the project. The open house was held on November 17, 2022 at Two Rivers High School and information/survey was also available virtually via the County's project website. The public was notified of the open house through a postcard mailing to addresses near the study area, an announcement on the project website, and social media posts by Dakota County, Mendota Heights, and West St. Paul.

The open house materials were available on the project website and a survey was available between November 17th and November 30th. Twenty-six people signed in at the open house and multiple others choose not to sign in. Seventeen surveys were received from the in-person open house and twenty-nine surveys were completed via the County's website link.

Public Comments and Survey Responses

Feedback received via the completed surveys and verbally received by City, County, and Consultant staff is summarized below based on the survey questions. General feedback that was received frequently is highlighted with **bold text**.

Question #1 – As a pedestrian or bicycles, do you feel safe crossing Delaware Avenue today?

- Yes (18 votes) – Included one vote noting they only felt safe crossing during low traffic volume times of day.
- No (28 votes)

Question #2 – If not, what challenges do you encounter crossing Delaware Avenue?

- **No existing crossing location with markings and lack of awareness for bicyclists and pedestrians**
- **Vehicle traffic does not slow or stop for pedestrians**
- **Delaware Avenue speed limit is too high and cars going too fast**
- **High traffic levels**
- Some responded that they use the crossing at Marie Avenue and feel that is safe and sufficient
- Some responded they feel safe but would not feel safe allowing their kids to cross
- Poor visibility and sight lines in spot locations

Question #3 – What improvements to Delaware Avenue do you feel would most improve pedestrian and bicycle safety? (i.e. crossing improvements, trail facilities, speed reduction measures, etc.)

- **Safe pedestrian crossings, with markings and flashing lights**
 - Some responses noted specific locations for crossings such as **Deer Run Trail, Preserve Path**, and the school
- **Improvements should not impact boulevard trees**
- **Speed reduction measures (including additional enforcement and solar, blinking speed signs)**
- Need a dog litter bag station along Delaware
- Lighting improvements
- Mix of support and opposition for a trail/sidewalk on the east side of Delaware
- Mix of support and opposition for medians on Delaware

- Continue sidewalk/trail north of Marie Avenue

Question #4 – Please review the different safety improvement options being evaluated. What elements of the options do you feel would be most beneficial?

Comments specific to the various options shown:

Option 1

- No specific comments supporting option 1
- Some general support to an off-street trail along the East side of Delaware Avenue

Option 2

- **Option 2 was the most frequently referenced option with support**
- Comments noted to review traffic queuing issues at school in AM/PM with buses prior to determining median lengths
- **Median refuge and flashing light sign needed with crossing improvements**
- Option 2 provides the least impact to residential front/back yards

Option 3

- Some support for option 3 but generally would prefer less medians on Delaware Ave
- Support for Option 3 generally focused on desire to add safe crossings

Option 4

- Option 4 is too expensive and extensive
- **Survey responders who supported a full trail and sidewalk generally preferred Option 4**

General comments regarding potential improvements:

- **Need improved and safe crossings of Delaware Avenue**
- **Crossings should include markings, raised medians, and flashing light signage**
- **Improvements need to include speed evaluation and reduction measures**
- Option 1 should not be evaluated any further and is not feasible due to residential property/yard impacts
- Some support for crosswalk improvements but medians not being necessary
- One comment noting no improvements are needed other than reducing the speed limit

Question #5 – Do you have any other comments or feedback regarding the project or Delaware Avenue that the project team should be aware of?

- **Speed limit on Delaware Avenue needs to be lowered and the project needs to address speeding vehicles**
- **Residents do not want to see any tree removal with this project**
- **Project team needs to study AM and PM traffic conditions before considering medians or removal of center left turn lane**
- A sidewalk or trail on the east side of Delaware Avenue is not needed
- Some residents are concerned about removing left turn lane for local side streets due to vehicle speeds and traffic levels
- One comment requested narrowing the street to calm traffic

- Some comments received that the project needs to be sensitive to work done on the road recently and keep taxpayers costs down
- Some comments questioning the need for medians as they don't exist anywhere else on Delaware Avenue
- Overflow traffic for sporting events park on Preserve Path and Deer Run Trail and attendees need to cross Delaware Avenue to get to the events
- Some comments received asking about how this project will correlate with the planned Delaware Avenue project north of Marie Avenue
- Some comments about school needing a paved connection to the trail along the west side of Delaware Avenue
- Multiple comments recommending radar speed signs
- Some comments received in appreciation of the engagement efforts and a few noting additional/improved engagement is needed
- One comment noting urgency that some sort of improvement is needed for the students and families due to dangers on Delaware Avenue