

39TH Avenue Greenway Public Open House Summary

May 2018

OPEN HOUSE OVERVIEW

On Wednesday, May 2, 2018, the 39th Avenue Greenway project team held a public open house at the St. Charles Recreation Center. The purpose of the open house was to engage the community on the Greenway design, new multimodal connections and provide information on construction phasing and timing. Community members were asked to provide preference for two significant design elements including the new signature bridge near High Street and the drainage Outfall at Franklin Street. Representatives from Denver Urban Gardens Arts and Venues attended the meeting to provide additional information on the community gardens and the City's 1% art fund.

There were more than 50 members of the public in attendance at the open house. The open house was promoted through social media, posters at local restaurants and businesses, a postal mailing of more than 1,000 invitations, more than 600 emailed invitations, one print advertisement and phone calls to local businesses. Information boards staffed by the project team allowed for one-on-one discussions and community engagement. In addition, all attendees were provided blue adhesive dots for voting and comment cards to express feedback.

KEY THEMES OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Below are the key themes which emerged from the comment cards and through one-on-one conversations between the public who attended the open house and project team members.

- **Traffic Control:** Community members expressed concern about changes in traffic patterns once the Greenway is completed. They want to make sure stop signs, speed limits and traffic lights are considered in managing these new patterns.
- **Lighting:** Attendees said they were impressed with the number of lights planned for the Greenway. There are still some concerns about having enough lighting in the channel and around the bridges.
- **Safety:** There are concerns that the Greenway may attract people experiencing homelessness.
- **Construction:** Community members wanted to know about the timeline for finishing the project and to be sure traffic impacts and detours are well managed.
- **Design:** Overall community members seemed to be excited about the design progression. Requests were made to explore options for creating a gateway at the Franklin Plaza.

Public Input by Votes

A breakdown of public voting on the signature bridge and Franklin Street drainage outfall, as well as responses to specific questions and key theme summaries are below.

HIGH STREET SIGNATURE BRIDGE OPTIONS

The Design Workgroup narrowed down the High Street Signature Bridge options to two choices. The public was presented the designs for an Arched Bridge and a Tiled Roof Bridge.

The voting results for the Signature Bridge are listed below:

Signature Bridge Design	Number of Votes
Arched Bridge	39
Tiled Roof Bridge	17

FRANKLIN STREET DRAINAGE OUTFALL OPTIONS

The public was presented with two options for the Franklin Outfall, that would support the storm water drainage design and provide an aesthetically pleasing design and be a gathering place for the community.

One option presented showed terraced seating positioned above the storm drainage grate. The other option presented showed an overlook that stretched 200 feet over the Greenway and covered the storm water drainage grate. In addition, a section of terraced seating was placed next to the overlook.

The voting results for the Franklin Drainage Outfall are listed below:

Drainage Outfall Design	Number of Votes
Terraced Outfall	23
Overlook Outfall	31

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Those attending the open house were given an opportunity to sign up indicating their desire to participate in the two community gardens planned in the Greenway. The two gardens have a combined capacity 37 plots. Eight attendees signed up. For more information on community gardens, visit: www.DUG.org.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

Attendees were encouraged to fill out comment cards addressing any feedback they had about the project. They were also engaged by the project team members who documented their verbal feedback on forms.

CONCERNS
Worried about speed and safety on Steele Street.
Consider adding lighting in the bottom of the channel between Franklin and Williams streets since this is the deepest section of the channel. Leaving it dark could invite unsavory business.
Will the Greenway lights be on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?
During construction, the project team should carefully consider the method of handling traffic during detours to avoid extreme congestion in the area.
With the change in traffic patterns after the Greenway is constructed, the City should do a study to determine how to make the area safer with stop signs and/or traffic lights.
The Greenway may attract urban campers.
Can 40 th Street be made more pedestrian friendly?
The grate at the Outfall will collect trash.
There won't be enough parking in the area.
Will it be safe to walk dogs in the channel?
The cost of housing will rise.

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
Add lighting to the Signature Bridge to make it stand out at night.
Consider using solar lighting.
The design of the area around the Outfall should reflect that this is the entrance to a Greenway.
Consider adding recycle bins next to trash bins.
When will the community see final design renderings?
When will the project be completed?
What is the construction timeline?
Consider bee hives in addition to Community Gardens.
Like the nature play area.
The design is beautiful.
Use the 1% art funding to design the Signature Bridge.
Love the spaces for the Community Gardens
The Outfall should definitely be a useable amenity.
What will you be looking at out on the overlook at the Outfall?
Add trees and shade to the natural area.
Project will increase property values.



The Project team will consider the feedback from the public as they continue to develop the design for the greenway.