

39TH Avenue Greenway Public Open House Summary

July 2018

OPEN HOUSE OVERVIEW

On Tuesday, July 24, 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 Greenway features such as the Plazas at Franklin and High Streets and the Shared Street and ask the community to provide a preference for the shade structure design.

There were approximately 20 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 call and personal visits 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 on the shade structures 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 and project team members.

- **Construction/Traffic Control:** Community members inquired about construction working hours and timelines, noise impacts and traffic disruptions, such as when specific streets will be closed and reopened.
- **Parking:** Community members wanted to know if the project team had considered residential parking permits. There were concerns that there will be no where to park once the Greenway is open for use.
- **Design:** Overall community members seemed to be excited about the design progression and had input on amenities and features they would like the team to consider.

PUBLIC INPUT & VOTING

The community was presented designs for the Plaza at Franklin Street, the Plaza at High Street and the Shared Street. They were also asked to vote on the shade structures located on the Shared Street.

PLAZAS AT FRANKLIN AND HIGH STREETS

The following comments and feedback on the Plazas were collected by project team members:

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS
I like how the plazas look and feel.
What kinds of goods can I buy at the Plazas?
I like the garden rooms for seating within the plaza.
I like the embedded railroad ties in the concrete at the plaza at High Street.
What kind of activities might happen at the plaza on High Street?
I like the consideration for storm drainage down High Street through the plaza and into the channel.
Has the team considered public “chairs” vs. benches for seating?

SHARED STREET FEEDBACK

The following comments and feedback on the Shared Street were collected by project team members:

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS
What will the speed limited be for the shared road?
Will the asymmetrical patterned concrete slow people down?
Will there be dividing lines between bikes, pedestrians and cars on the Shared Street?
What's the speed limit?
Will (traffic) signs be posted?

SHADE STRUCTURE VOTING

The Design Workgroup narrowed down the shade structures to two choices. The public was presented images of the two designs. The voting results for the Signature Bridge are listed below:

Shade Structures	Number of Votes
Option 1	11
Option 2	9

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.

CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION QUESTIONS & CONCERNS
Not happy with the demolishing of old Victorian houses and putting up square ones. Ruining the old neighborhood.
Not sure if my tenants are going to like construction noise.
What will be the construction work hours?
How will the construction proceed?
When will York bridge open?
When will 40 th and Blake reopen?
What will noise levels and traffic disruptions look like?
When will specific streets be closed?
When will streets close and reopen?
Can they finish the sidewalks now before the entire buildout?

DESIGN QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
I like the mixed shapes of the shades. Love the bridge. Excited about the bike path. Excited to see some wild animals.
Excited to have sidewalks and a bike path from 40 th & Franklin to Blake Street.



I really like design and excited to see end result.
Could there be more brick or cobblestones?
What about flagstone or something more natural?
No Pinon pine trees makes me sad.
Will the plantings require extra watering?
Will planters extend beyond the end unit of the rock?
Will the fencing be staggered or straight?
Will there be dock-less bicycle stations?
Design change – Is there a possibility for a dog park?
Much as I love engineers, let us have natural stone walks and more trapezoids and triangles instead of squares and rectangles.
Design change – Nothing. Build it. Quick, fast, in a hurry, successfully and painlessly.

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
Believes the collaborative process was great and felt like the residents were listened to and really had a voice in the process.
How does pedestrian crossing at York and 39 th work with sidewalks and south side sidewalk?
Really like design and excited to see end result.
How will people know Greenway is there from the York Street bridge?
Take this plan and present it to the mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.
How do you commission artwork?
Will there be public art at York Street?
Any there any restaurants or bars planned?
It is a beautiful project.
Well organized and informed staff. Would like more information on High Street Bar & Grill renovation plan, and the approach to concerns with homelessness would be great. Looks great!
We think the Greenway project is fine in concept.
Wonderful, beautiful. The whole world is beautiful!

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