Fact Sheet for Proposed Bike Lane on East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado Boulevard

What You Need to Know

• Both the Denver Moves: Bicycles Plan and the Blue Print Denver Plan recommends East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado to have a buffered bike lane.

• Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure plans to repave this section of East Dartmouth Avenue in 2020 providing an opportunity to upgrade the bike facility from a shared lane marking (sharrow) to a buffered bike lane. Implementing bikeways with repaving is cost-effective.

• We would like feedback regarding the current conditions on Dartmouth Avenue to inform our design.

The History of Proposed Bike Lane on East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado Boulevard

• In 2011, the bike lane was a recommended project in the Denver Moves: Bicycles Plan, which is a City-wide, community developed, bicycle master plan.

• In 2015, the Denver Moves: Bicycles Plan was updated and the bike lane on East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado was again recommended to be installed.

• In 2018, the Blue Print Denver Plan, which is a City-wide land-use and transportation plan, identified East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado as a Bicycle Priority Corridor.

• Early in 2020, Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure identifies East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado to be repaved. Denver staff identifies this as an opportunity to meet the intent of the approved plans, and upgrade from a sharrow to a buffered bike lane on the corridor once it’s repaved. Traffic volumes and speed along this corridor require a buffered bike lane to meet safety needs.

Four Factors That Denver Considered to Recommend Including the Bike Lane on East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado Boulevard

1. Parking Analysis and Wide Travel Lanes. Installing a buffered bike lane would require the removal of parking from both sides of the street. The corridor is lightly parked,
about 3% to 6% of parking is utilized, making travel lanes appear wide. These are factors that have been linked to higher travel speeds.

Adding a striped buffered bike lane will reduce the width of the travel lane and has positive traffic calming effects. Striped bike lanes visually narrow travel lanes, helping to reduce travel speeds and increasing safety for all roadway users.

2. Elementary School. Residents, parents and school community frequently contact City to discuss options for improving pick-up/drop-off conditions (parking, dangerous driving behavior, etc.)

3. Intersection Concerns. Off-set intersection at Colorado and Dartmouth, visibility concerns, and speeds on Colorado make pedestrian and bicycle crossing feel unsafe.

**Four Main Benefits of Adding a Bike Lane to East Dartmouth Avenue from University Boulevard to South Colorado Boulevard**

1. It will improve safety. Improving the bike facility from a sharrow to a buffered bike lane will provide a low-stress bikeway and will reduce speeding.
2. It provides a better connection to the existing and future bikeways and trails network. By adding a buffered bike lane it will provide a consistent, low-stress, east-west connection to the High Line Canal, Harvard Gulch, Franklin Street, Saint Paul Street, and the continuation of the bike facility on Dartmouth in Engelwood.
3. It will provide lower stress intersection crossings at South University Boulevard and South Colorado Boulevard.
4. Additionally, it better connects destinations for people to access on the east side of Colorado that include Eisenhower Park, Slavens Elementary School, commercial businesses, and the public library.

**Project Schedule to Install Buffered Bike Lanes on East Dartmouth Avenue**

- In the winter of 2020, Denver staff researched the feasibility of adding a buffer to the bike lane.
- In early Spring of 2020, Denver staff developed a conceptual layout of proposed buffered bike lane project.
- In late Spring of 2020, Denver staff will complete a design for buffered bike lane.
- If prior steps advance Denver will implement a bike lane with roadway repaving in the summer and or fall of 2020.