

In 2020 the City of Philadelphia conducted extensive community engagement regarding Washington Avenue. One option was presented as a final design decision, based on that engagement. However, based on further community input in 2021, this is not the final design decision. Benered Services

## Washington Avenue Repaving & Improvement Project *Final Design Decision*

September 2020

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & SUSTAINABILITY

Note: As of 2022, the information in this presentation no longer represents the final design decision.

Updated: 8/28/2020

## **Project Overview**

Washington Avenue is scheduled to be repaved in 2021 with committed federal funding, which gives the City the opportunity to improve how it functions for all users.



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#### Project Limits & Crash History (2012-2018)



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## How did we get here?

#### **Public Input**

• Public meetings and input (2013 – 2015) determine need for more study

#### **Parking & Loading Studies**

- East side parking & operational impact analysis (2016)
- East side **business loading survey** (2016)
- West side parking & operational impact analysis (2019)
- West side business loading survey (2019)

#### **Traffic Analyses**

- Full-corridor (Grays Ferry to 4th Street) traffic analysis (2019)
- Full corridor (Grays Ferry to Columbus) **Origin/Destination Analysis** (2020)
- Christian and Ellsworth Streets Parallel Route Analysis (2020)

## **Analysis Key Findings**

- Businesses have unmet loading needs
- **Parking** is not serving businesses or residents well
- Traffic impacted by **double-parking and median parking**
- Traffic can be improved by **optimizing signal timing**
- Lane reductions will cause some increased travel time during rush hours (5 - 10 seconds a block) when combined with signal optimization
- During non-rush hours, lane reductions will not increase travel time
- Washington Avenue is dangerous, especially for people walking and biking, HIN

## We adapted to get input at a social distance



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## **Community Engagement since March 2020**

37 meetings with 26 RCOs & Civic Associations, reaching 215+ people

5,458 survey responses across 4 languages

12,049 unique video views across 4 languages

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## **Outreach Methods**

5 blog posts

**68,400+** social media impressions

**16** media mentions; **8+** mentions in RCO newsletters

5,400+ postcards mailed

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## Summary of what we heard from neighbors 2020 Neighbors who took the survey:

- Safe pedestrian crossings and safe bike lanes were highest ranked goals
- Less traffic on side streets and quick drive times were lowest ranked goals

#### Neighbors who we talked to at RCO meetings:

- **Positive feedback in general** about the process
- Appreciate the ability to **see different options and weigh tradeoffs**

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#### Survey Results Most neighbors (74%-67%) prefer the 3-lane option

#### **Rating for Lane Options – All Results**

(% label is Rating 4 & 5) - total leaves out 'no rating'



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## Parking & Loading Regulation Improvements

- **187 businesses** were identified to provide input for parking and loading studies of which **80% responded**
- Parking capacity will increase, and double parking and median parking will decrease with the addition of free, timed parking (2-4 hours depending on the block)
- **Deliveries will have dedicated space** to load and unload through the addition of new loading zones
- The corridor will be able to accommodate around 500 more parked cars in spaces that under current regulations see little or no turnover on an average day

# Roadway Layout: Washington Avenue 2021

### **Preferred Design: 3 Lane Cross-Section**



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## **Benefit: Less exposure for people walking**



Looking Eastbound

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### **Benefit: Expanded pedestrian space**



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### **Benefit: Space for SEPTA bus riders**



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## **Next Steps**

- ✓ Publish the survey results online and inform key stakeholders
- Review block-by-block parking and loading plan with businesses and neighbors
- Create Final Engineering Plan for Streets Department
- Work closely with City Council on legislation for parking and loading
- Continue regular communications before, during and after paving in 2021

& SUSTAINABILITY

# Follow project online

## Web: **Bit.ly/ImproveWashington** Twitter: **@PhillyOTIS** Facebook: **@PhilaOTIS**

## Ask us questions

## Email: VisionZero@phila.gov Phone/Text: 215-436-9886

