



Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Can the roadway be reduced by one lane in order to better accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic?

A1. The MLK Jr. Drive Bridge is a vital connection for all modes of traffic traveling towards Center City and has been found to require two inbound lanes of traffic. As such, the proposed vehicular and shared-use path arrangement is designed to accommodate all users (i.e. vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians) and strike a balance between their respective needs. The proposed configuration does not preclude dropping an inbound vehicular lane in the future. Traffic studies will be performed during the upcoming Eakins Oval Project to investigate the feasibility of such a lane drop.

Q2. Can the shared use path be widened to greater than 10'-0"?

A2. Yes. The shared use path will be widened by 6 inches, resulting in an overall width of 10'-6". Widening more than 6 inches would require complete reconstruction of the bridge.

Q3. Can the bridge be kept closed to vehicular traffic in the long term (i.e. as it has been since the COVID-19 restrictions)?

A3. The MLK Jr. Drive Bridge is a vital connection for vehicular traffic traveling in and out of Center City. The bridge provides necessary redundancy to traffic within the City grid. When the bridge is reopened to vehicles the City will continue to perform periodic closures of the bridge to vehicular traffic on certain weekends and holidays, as it has done for many years.

Q4. Will there be a signed and upgraded bicycle detour for the MLK Drive trail?

A4. Yes. The northbound bicycle detour will follow the Spring Garden Bridge to Mantua Ave to 34th Street and back down Lansdowne Road onto Sweet Briar Road, and finally MLK Jr. Drive. The southbound detour will be the same route in reverse. The detour will be posted in both directions. The majority of that route already has bicycle facilities in place, but the City will investigate additional measures.

Q5. Will there be measures to decrease vehicular speed along MLK Jr. Drive?

A5. Yes. As part of the project design, the City has decreased the regulatory speed on the bridge to 25mph. In addition, two traffic calming measures will be implemented: 1) the westbound lane will be decreased to 10'-0" and 2) a curb-mounted railing providing a narrower visual field for drivers and protecting the shared-use path will be installed.

For more information: MLK.bridge.rehab@phila.gov