



April 2025 Project Updates – English

TL;DR

The Chinatown Stitch is coming! 🧵 This is the official newsletter for updates as the project moves forward.

This year, the project starts Round 2 of public engagement. The design team will share potential design options for community input. The City will choose a final design after the design team has gathered input from community members like you!

Get involved by going to bit.ly/chinatownstitch 🔗

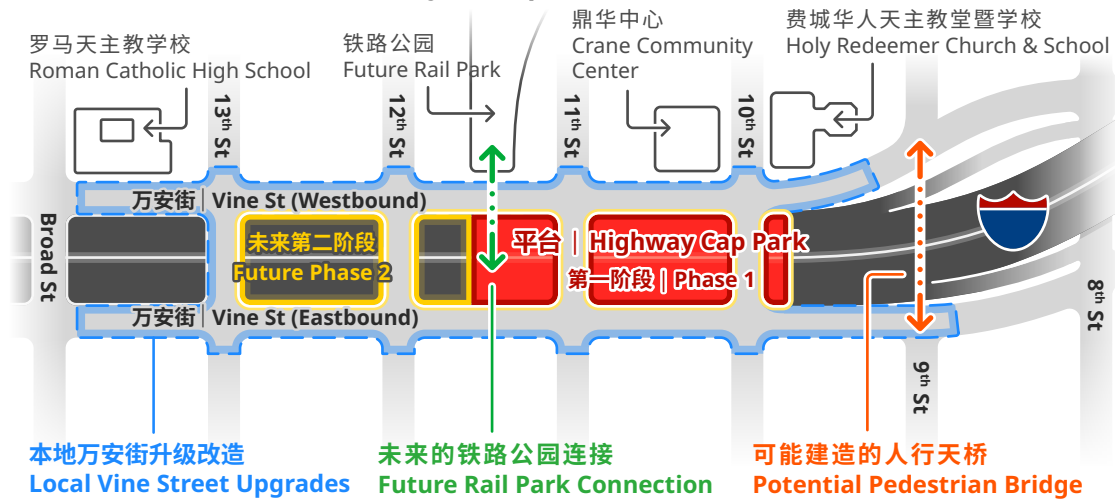
Meet the Chinatown Stitch!

Welcome to the official newsletter of The Chinatown Stitch!

The City of Philadelphia is going to build a highway cap on top of the Vine Street Expressway. The project will also make street safety improvements to local Vine Street. Almost \$160 million in funding makes the project possible. The funding comes from local, state, federal, and philanthropic sources. The Chinatown Stitch aims to make Vine Street safer for people who drive, walk, ride bicycles, and use transit. It also aims to make it easier for residents and visitors to get to work, school, doctors, stores, and parks.

💡 ICYMI: A **highway cap** is a structure built over a sunken highway that resembles a bridge. The highway is below and there is a platform over top. Highway caps can have landscaping or small structures built on them.

缝合华埠 | Chinatown Stitch Project Map



The Chinatown Stitch focuses on the area from Broad Street to 8th Street and Callowhill to Race Street. The project will include:

- Building a 1.5 block highway cap over the Expressway. The cap will be between 10th and 12th streets and have public and green space. Phase 2, currently unfunded, would extend the cap to 2.5 total blocks.
- Updating Vine Street's local lanes to make it safer for everyone.
- Exploring a pedestrian bridge at 9th Street.
- Designing for a future Rail Park connection.
- Strengthening the bridges on 10th and 11th Street. Improving sidewalks and ramps.
- Job training programs to help residents get jobs when construction starts.

A Bit of Background

Let's take a moment to acknowledge why we're doing this...



Chinatown is in the heart of Philadelphia. It has narrow, dense streets. It has a mix of houses and businesses. Chinatown also has many cultural and social organizations. These include community centers, schools, and religious organizations.

Vine Street used to be a regular sized road, like Race Street and Arch Street. In the 1950s, the City widened it to make it easier for people driving cars. This required that many buildings be torn down and the people who lived or worked in those buildings had to leave. It also made it hard for people to cross Vine Street if they weren't in cars.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the City and State built the Vine Street Expressway. The construction removed many homes and businesses and displaced more people. Today, more than 100,000 motorists use the Expressway each day. It serves as a major economic corridor. But the Expressway continues to be the source of issues for those who live and work around it. The issues include traffic accidents, unsafe sidewalks, traffic, air pollution, and noise.

The City recognizes the impact the Expressway has had on surrounding communities. The Chinatown Stitch aims to address some of the harm caused by it.

Goals

The project aims to meet longstanding community desires.

In 2023, the City asked the Community what parts of the project are most important. The Community chose four goals. These goals will guide the project design:

- Create an inviting public green space with trees and plants
- Create a safe street design that extends the Chinatown neighborhood feel
- Prioritize the needs of the elderly, young, and those with disabilities
- Include public buildings and businesses that serve community needs

Meet the Team



The City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (OTIS) is leading the Chinatown Stitch. OTIS is partnering with the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC).

The project is also supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) District 6-0. It is funded by grants from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the William Penn Foundation, and the Knight Foundation.

The City has a team of experts working on the Chinatown Stitch. The team is made up of planners, engineers, architects, and designer:

- PCDC – Leading Equity Planning, Engagement Support

- WSP – Leading Consultant Team, Planning & Engineering
- HDR, AGES, Pennoni, AGE – Engineering
- AD Marble – Environmental Analysis
- OJB – Park Design
- Ground Reconsidered – Street Design
- Urban Partners – Economic Analysis
- Connect the Dots – Public Engagement
- YH Lab – Public Engagement Support

Team members have been in Chinatown since late Winter. They are connecting with people and sharing updates. They're also letting people know how they can give input on the project. So far, we have talked to 65 businesses and organizations.

We will be back out in April and May with events and more opportunities to take part in. Be on the lookout for our team members wearing blue!



The community makes the Chinatown Stitch possible. There are more than 25 groups who are members of our Stakeholder Committee. These groups have helped guide the project. Thank you to all stakeholder organizations!

What We Heard So Far

Round 1 of public engagement for The Chinatown Stitch began in 2023. This is what we heard:

👂 Community members want the design of Chinatown Stitch to be (1) vibrant, (2) a balance of modern & traditional, and (3) embody the Chinatown neighborhood's feel.

👂 The Community would like (1) green space, (2) outdoor gathering space, (3) places to relax, and (4) places to shop and eat.

Let's Do It Together!

The Chinatown Stitch is coming. Help us design it!

Our team is hosting pop-ups at community events and locations in April. Stop by for a few minutes to learn more about the project and share your feedback.

If you can't make it to a pop-up, stay on the lookout for our survey in April and public meetings in May! Go to bit.ly/chinatownstitch.

- Pop-Ups:
 - **(1) 10th & Arch**
 - Sunday, April 20th @ 11am - 1:30pm
 - 1001 Arch St
 - **(2) Chinatown Community Park**
 - Saturday, April 26th @ 2 - 4:30pm
 - 145 N 10th St
 - **(3) 10th Street Plaza**
 - Sunday, April 27th @ 11am - 1:30pm
 - 10th & Vine St
 - **(4) 11 & Callowhill**
 - Friday, May 2nd @ 2 - 4:30pm
 - 11th & Callowhill (near FACTS, Vox, and Movement)
 - **(5) Crane Community Center, Philadelphia Suns**
 - Saturday, May 3rd @ 2 - 4:30pm
 - 1001 Vine St, 2nd Floor

- **(6) Engine Company 20 - Fire Station**
 - Tuesday, May 6th @ 1 - 3:30pm
 - 133 N 10th St
- **(7) On Lok House**
 - Friday, May 9th @ 1:30 - 4pm
 - 219 N 10th St
- **(8) 10th Street Plaza**
 - Thursday, May 15 @ 5:30 - 7:30pm
 - 10th & Vine St