

Minnetonka Boulevard reconstruction

We heard you!

Hennepin County is reevaluating the current use and design of Minnetonka Boulevard between Highway 100 and France Avenue, and is developing a plan for the corridor to better serve current and future users. From May 2021-September 2021, the project team went out into the community, posted signage and decals, sent out a mailing, and offered an online commenting map to hear from as many stakeholders as possible. This report summarizes all the feedback we received during this phase of engagement.

At a glance

Phase 1

May 2021 -
November 2021

221

online comment
mapping comments

266

survey
responses



Next steps

The project team will use the input gathered from the public and begin to create different improvement options for the project corridor. These improvements will be shared online at hennepin.us/minnetonka-boulevard in early 2022.

Contact us

Jason Staebell, P.E., project engineer for design
jason.staebell@hennepin.us
Phone: 612-596-0371

Survey results

Minnetonka Boulevard reconstruction

Summer 2021 survey

In June, we mailed out a survey to residents and businesses within approximately two blocks of the project area. The survey was also available to take online.



Results showed that residents worry about traffic speeds and desire calming measures.

266
responses

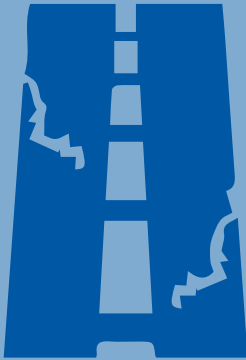


Pedestrian safety is a concern, with a desire for improved lighting and crosswalks.



There is a need for better biking infrastructure, protected bike lanes and bikeway connections.

Survey results favor redirecting traffic to higher volume roads (like Hwy 7) to help reduce congestion.

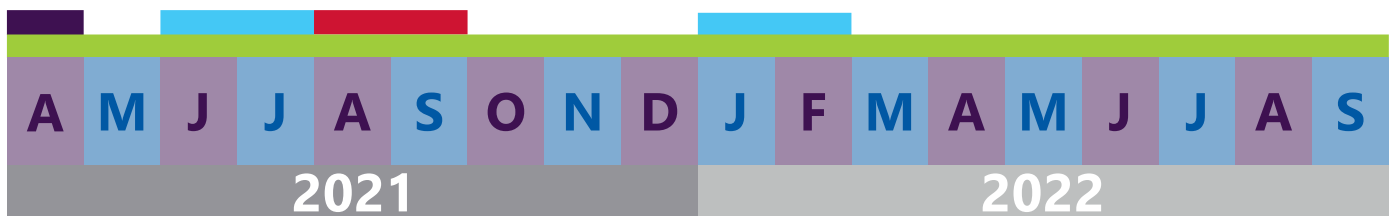


Sidewalks and streets are poorly maintained. Many of the sidewalks are currently too close to the roadway.

Many people are in favor of adding trees and plantings along the roadway.

There is some interest in adding public transportation stops and shelters.

Engagement timeline



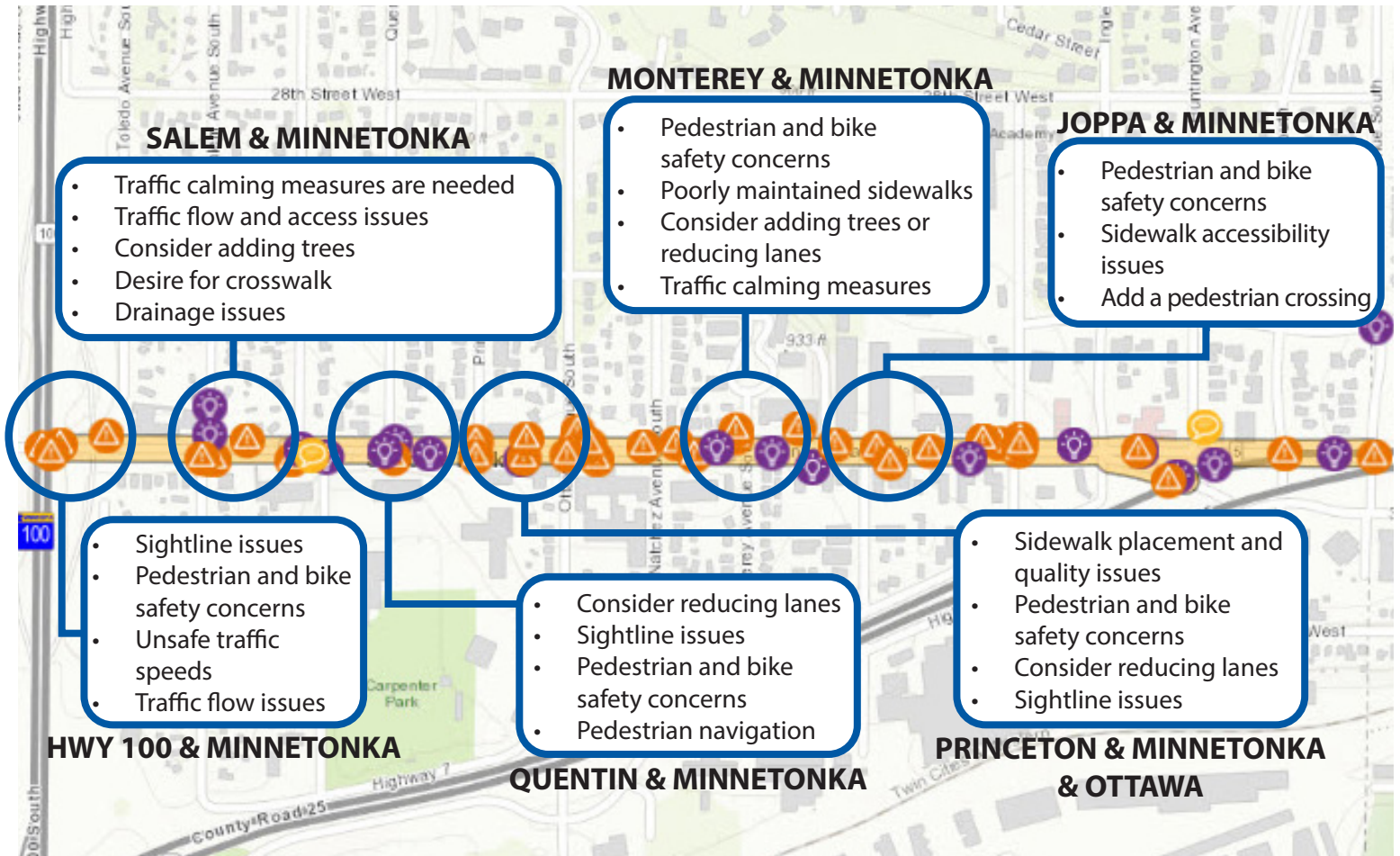
Key

- Demographic research
- Project website, social media, and email updates
- Open houses and pop-up events
- Sidewalk decals and outdoor signage

Online comment map

In May 2021, we launched an online comment map that allowed people to provide location-specific feedback on ideas and opportunities (shown as purple icons with a lightbulb), concerns (shown as orange icons with a safety triangle), or general comments (shown as yellow icons with a speech bubble). Folks were given the option of adding new comments or replying to existing comments. People could also participate by “liking” or “disliking” comments. **221 comments were received and 147 replies were made.**

Main themes at key areas



Common themes



Desire for safer crossings and sidewalks



Speeding is a concern



Many areas have sightline issues



Traffic flow issues need resolving



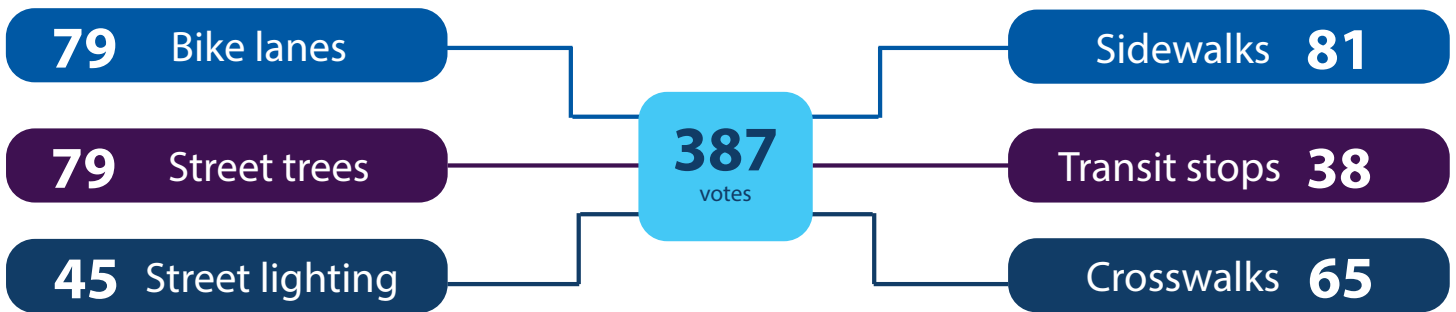
Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety

Parktacular

We hosted a booth at the St. Louis Park Parktacular community event on June 19, 2021. Around 100 people of all ages participated in two interactive activities to provide their feedback for the project.

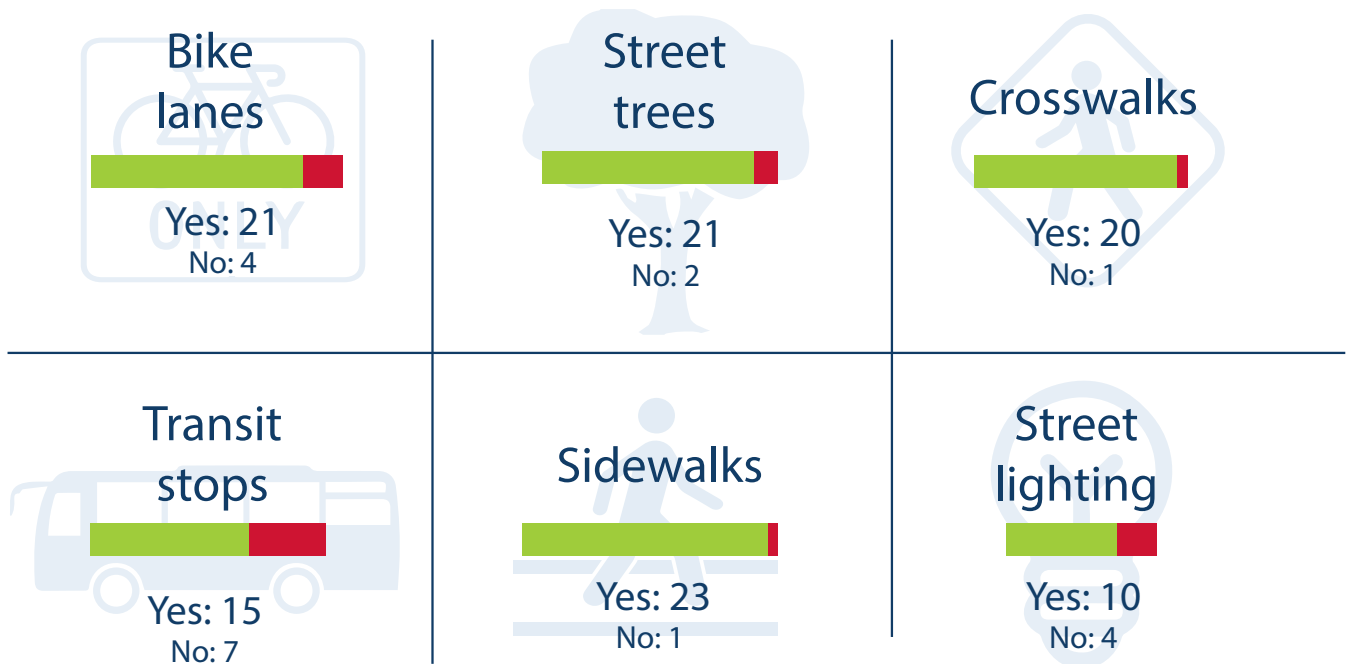
Improvement type preferences mason jar activity

The voting exercise invited participants to place colorful pompoms in jars corresponding with several potential improvements to Minnetonka Boulevard, to indicate which ones they would like to see the most.



Visual preference board activity summary

The visual preference board was designed to collect input on concepts for improvements to Minnetonka Boulevard. People were asked to place green stickers on things that they liked, and orange stickers on things they did not.



Participant comments

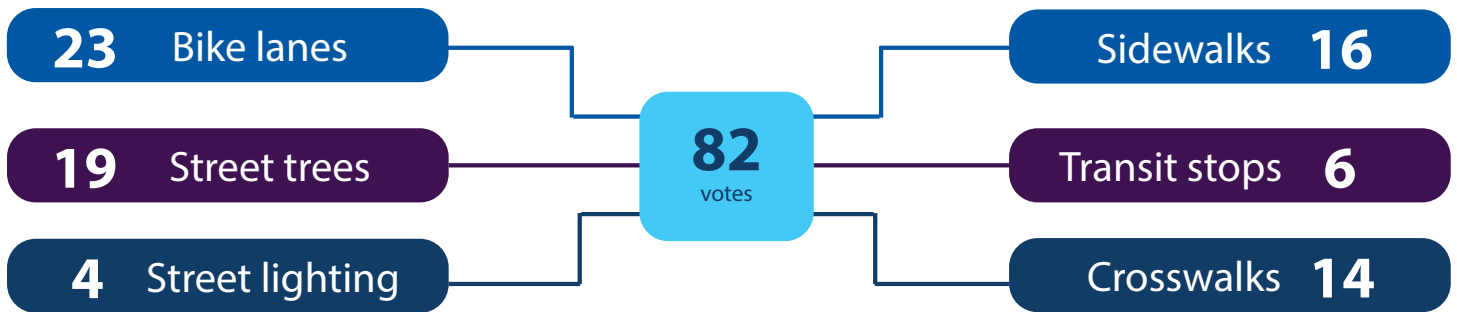
- Don't take street lanes away
- Existing street trees need water
- Protected 4 lanes with a center turn lane
- Put in a flashing light for pedestrians
- Put in downward street lights to reduce light pollution
- Direct traffic to higher-volume roads
- Consider adding a roundabout

Skateapalooza

We hosted a booth at the St. Louis Park Skateapalooza community event on July 27, 2021. Around 50 people of all ages participated in two interactive activities to provide their feedback for the project.

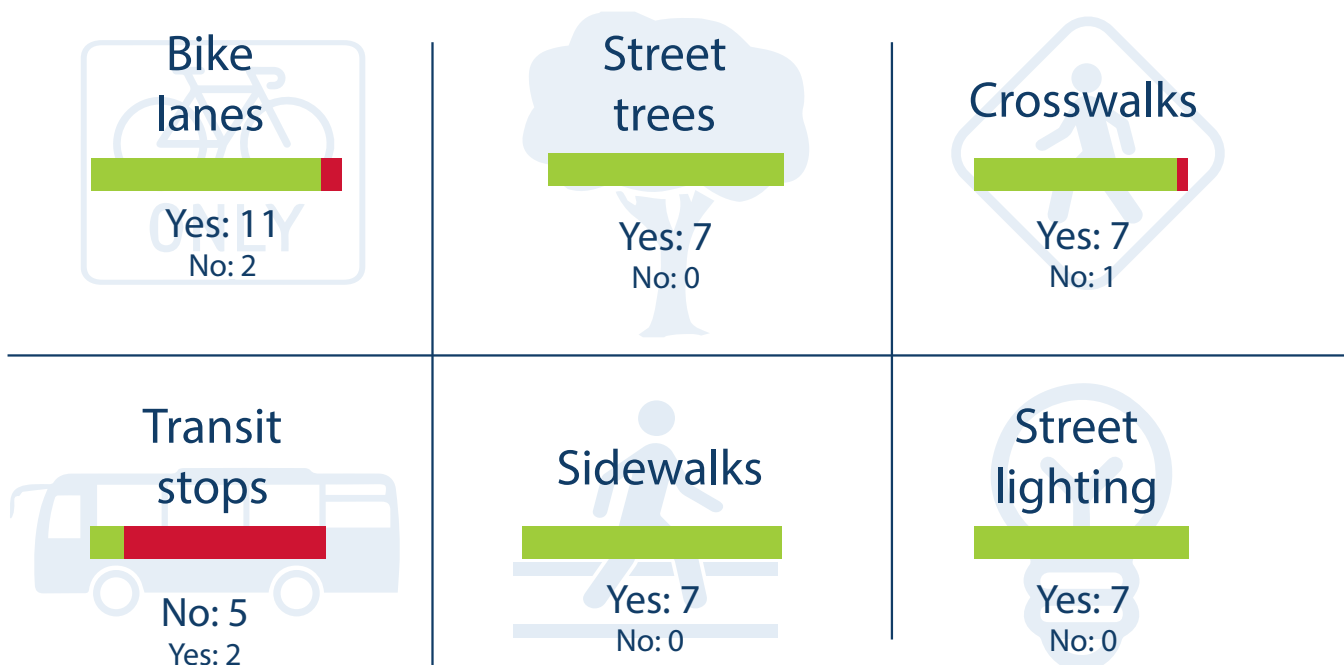
Improvement type preferences mason jar activity

The voting exercise invited participants to place colorful pompoms in jars corresponding with several potential improvements to Minnetonka Boulevard, to indicate which ones they would like to see the most.



Visual preference board activity summary

The visual preference board was designed to collect input on concepts for improvements to Minnetonka Boulevard. People were asked to place green stickers on things that they liked, and orange stickers on things they did not.



Participant comments

- **Plant native trees — plan for a hot future**
- **Consider recruiting organizations or volunteers to maintain plantings & trees**
- **Consider adding more benches/outdoor chairs for people with disabilities**

Outdoor signage and sidewalk decals

Outdoor signage

Outdoor signs, which included a brief summary of the project, a text-to-vote activity, and a way to stay informed, were placed outside of city hall and along the corridor near the Minnetonka Boulevard and Highway 100 intersection. The signs provided an innovative way to engage with folks who have little to no access to the Internet.

Minnetonka Boulevard reconstruction
County Road 5 in St. Louis Park

Vote for what you want to see on Minnetonka Boulevard
Text your favorites to 612-524-9087 — vote for as many options as you want!
We are using this information to learn what the community prefers/prioritizes.

BIKE LANES  TO VOTE FOR BIKE LANES TEXT "1" TO 612-524-9087	STREET LIGHTS  TO VOTE FOR STREET LIGHTS TEXT "2" TO 612-524-9087	STREET TREES  TO VOTE FOR STREET TREES TEXT "3" TO 612-524-9087	TRANSIT STOPS  TO VOTE FOR TRANSIT STOPS TEXT "4" TO 612-524-9087	SIDEWALKS  TO VOTE FOR SIDEWALKS TEXT "5" TO 612-524-9087	CROSSWALKS  TO VOTE FOR CROSSWALKS TEXT "6" TO 612-524-9087
--	---	---	---	---	--

Check out our online virtual experience!
Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit tinyurl.com/minnetonka-boulevard to learn more about the project, provide comments on an interactive comment map, and take a short survey.

Project contact
Jason Staebell, project engineer for design
jason.staebell@hennepin.us
612-596-0373

St. Louis Park MINNESOTA

Hennepin



Outdoor sign design

Outdoor sign in front of city hall

Sidewalk decals

Similar to the outdoor signage, sidewalk decals were placed along the corridor at intersections with pedestrian crossings and/or stop lights to notify interested parties about the project and engage with them outside of the traditional online and in-person methods.



Reimagine
Minnetonka Boulevard

tinyurl.com/minnetonka-boulevard  Scan to learn more!

St. Louis Park MINNESOTA

Hennepin

Sidewalk decal design



Sidewalk decal at pedestrian crossing across from city hall