Washington Avenue Repaving & Improvement Project

Final Design Decision

September 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.
Project Limits & Crash History
(2012-2018)

We will be repaving and restriping from Grays Ferry Avenue to 4th Street.
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
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
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
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’

- Mixed Lane: 48%
- 4 Lane: 33%
- 3 Lane: 71%
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
Benefit: Less exposure for people walking
Benefit: Expanded pedestrian space
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Benefit: Space for SEPTA bus riders
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
Follow project online

Web: Bit.ly/ImproveWashington
Twitter: @PhillyOTIS
Facebook: @PhilaOTIS
Ask us questions

Email: VisionZero@phila.gov
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Thank you!