

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Visioning Study Engagement Summary

From October 2019 - March 2022, three phases of community engagement allowed the project team to gather information regarding public opinion on the current conditions of Rice Street and to share concepts for the improvements of the Rice Street corridor.

INITIAL FEEDBACK
October 2019-July 2020

TOOLBOX PHASE
August-December 2020

ROADWAY DESIGN OPTIONS
January 2021-March 2022

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

5
OPEN HOUSES



- October 29, 2019 – 43 attendees
- November 18, 2020 – 20 responses, 146 video views
- July 14, 2021 – 96 registrants, 294 video views
- November 16, 2021 – 114 registrants, 91 video views
- March 30, 2022 – 68 registrants, 93 video views

9 **POP-UP EVENTS**



- Frogtown Creative Arts Festival
- Marydale Festival 2019
- Revision Rice Pop-Up
- Dars Ice Cream Pop-Up
- LarpenTOUR
- Double Dragon Foods Pop-Up
- National Night Out Pop-Up
- Rice-Larpenreur Block Party
- Marydale Festival 2021

27 

EMAILS SENT

2,360

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS



262

INPUTID COMMENTS

38

SIDEWALK DECAL LOCATIONS



14

VIDEOS



16

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS



9

SURVEYS

4



COMMUNITY LIAISONS

2,418

TOTAL VIDEO VIEWS



1,395

TOTAL IN-PERSON COMMENTS

583

DIGITAL SURVEY RESPONSES



4

FOCUS GROUPS

OVER 4,650
COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Key Rice Street Engagement Events

2019

September

October

November

December

2020

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

2021

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

2022

January

February

March

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019
Frogtown
Creative Arts
Festival



SEPTEMBER 28, 2019
Marydale Festival

DECEMBER 16, 2019
Washington Tech Magnet
Partnering Meeting

MAY 22, 2019
Online Miniseries Begins

AUGUST 21, 2020
Dar's Ice
Cream Pop-up



OCTOBER 17, 2020
Double
Dragon's Foods
Pop-up



OCTOBER 22, 2020
8-Part Online
Miniseries Ends

JUNE 14, 2021
Open House #3

NOVEMBER 16, 2021
Open House #4

MARCH 30, 2022
Open House #5

OCTOBER 29, 2019
Open House #1



JULY 31, 2020
Mama's
Pizza
Pop-up

NOVEMBER 11, 2020
Open House #2



AUGUST 2, 2021
Decals Installed
AUGUST 3, 2021
National Night
Out Pop-up



SEPTEMBER 25,
2020
Marydale
Festival

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 1: Existing Conditions Engagement Highlights

From October 2019 - July 2020, the project team gathered initial feedback about existing conditions on Rice Street. In this phase, the community let us know what is working on Rice street, what isn't, and ideas for the future.

GATHER INITIAL FEEDBACK

Oct. 2019 Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. March April May June July 2020

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SERIES

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 MAY 22, 2020 Project overview and community liaison intro Project overview video: 219 views Introduced project and community liaisons | 2 JUNE 17, 2020 Who is using Rice Street? Who is using Rice Street video: 150 views Covered data on the people and neighborhoods, history, culture and businesses and jobs on Rice Street | 3 JUNE 25, 2020 Traveling on Rice Street Miniseries videos: 215 views Covered commuter traffic, driving, biking, walking and transit along the corridor | 4 JULY 9, 2020 How are we involving the community? Miniseries video: 84 views Covered how community can provide feedback: General feedback forms, surveys and INPUTiD | 5 JULY 30, 2020 Update from community liaisons Community liaisons introduced themselves and provided a video update about engagement |
|--|--|--|--|--|

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 1: Existing Conditions Engagement Highlights

PROJECT GOALS SURVEY

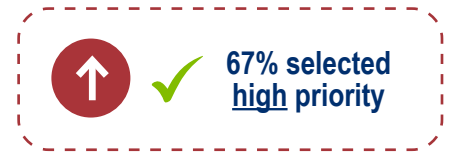
How do you travel on Rice Street?



How would you like to travel on Rice Street?



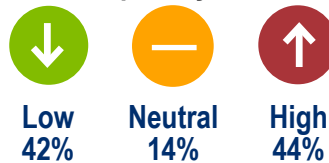
Should a more walkable corridor that encourages people to walk between destinations be a low or high priority?



Are the current street crossings a safety concern for pedestrians?



Should encouraging bicycle traffic on Rice Street be a low or high priority?

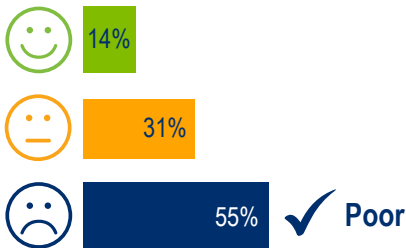


What are your top three priorities for Rice Street?

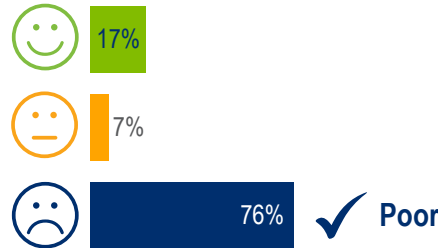


FACILITY RATINGS SURVEY

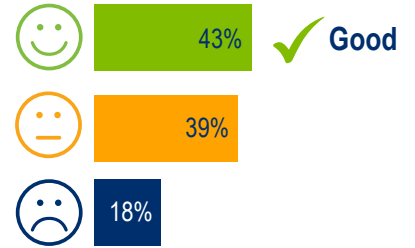
Pedestrians



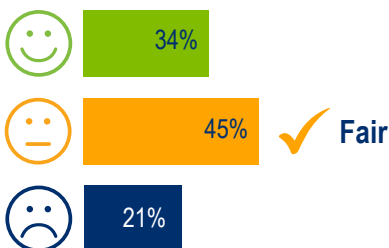
Bicyclists



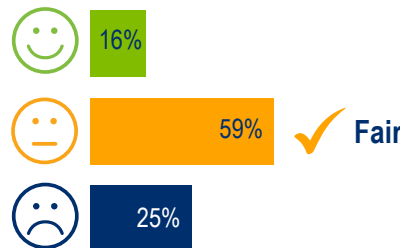
Transit



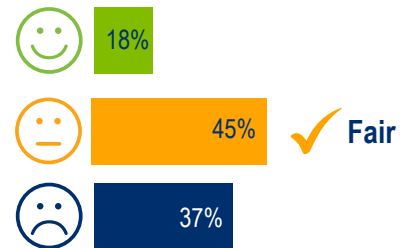
Passenger vehicles



Freight



Parking



RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 1: Existing Conditions Engagement Highlights

TOP 5 INPUTID COMMENT TOPICS



40
Total

Likes and Ideas

22 Initial comments 18 Replies

Dislikes and Concerns

80
Total

33 Initial comments 47 Replies



More bike lanes that connect to trails, parks, and the downtown area



More attractive neighborhood design and green space



Promotion of local businesses, more restaurants and coffee shops, and more opportunity for youth employment



More intersections like Rice Street and Larpenteur Avenue that have slower speed limits and a 4-3 lane conversion



Lane reduction to promote alternative modes of transportation



Maintenance of sidewalks is poor, making it hard for pedestrian use and accessibility



Crossings at intersections are unsafe for all pedestrians such as bikers and walkers



Rice Street is too fast, causing many accidents and various safety concerns



Limited left turn lanes



Too little parking

NEXT STEPS

From August - October 2020, community engagement will focus on a toolbox of design features that could be used to improve Rice Street. In this phase, please share your feedback on possible improvement options and which options are best for the Rice Street corridor.

TOOLBOX PHASE

ROADWAY DESIGN OPTIONS

July

Aug.

Sept.

Oct.

Nov.

Dec.

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 2: Improvement Toolbox Engagement Highlights

From August 2020 - December 2020, the project team gathered feedback on specific tools that could be used to improve the project area. These tools were released in five separate topic groups: pedestrian and bicycle, transit, streetscape, vehicle traffic, and neighborhood design improvements. Members of the public were given the opportunity to learn about each option and provide their feedback via an online survey. After these online topics were released, the project team held an open house in November to discuss results and share potential roadway design options.

IMPROVEMENT TOOLBOX PHASE

Aug. 2020

Sept.

Oct.

Nov.

Dec. 2020

TOOLBOX PHASE ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



NEXT STEPS

From January - August 2021, the remaining community engagement will be focused on design solutions and alternatives for the corridor and surrounding community. In this phase, we continued to receive feedback on roadway design options and which options are best for the Rice Street corridor.

ROADWAY DESIGN OPTIONS

SELECTED DESIGN

Nov. 2020

Dec.

Jan. 2021

Feb.

March

April

May

June

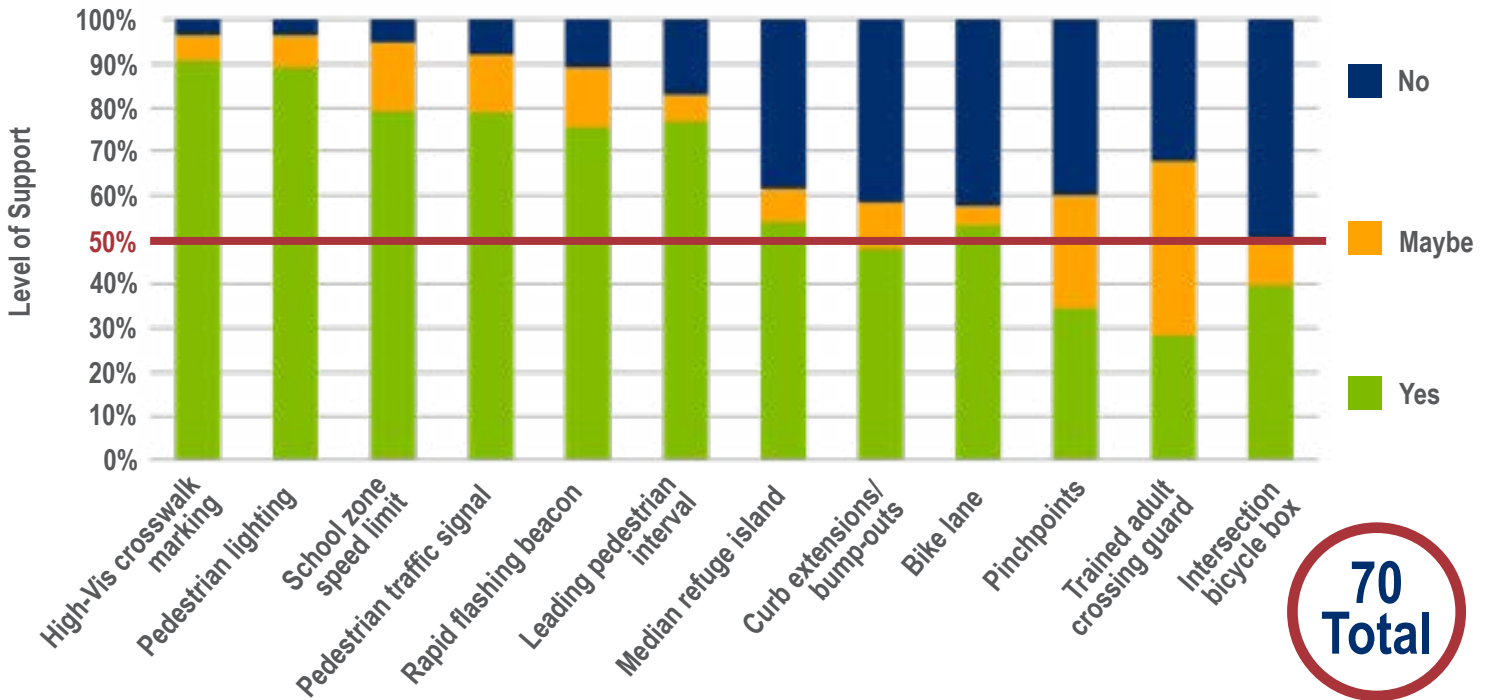
July

Aug. 2021

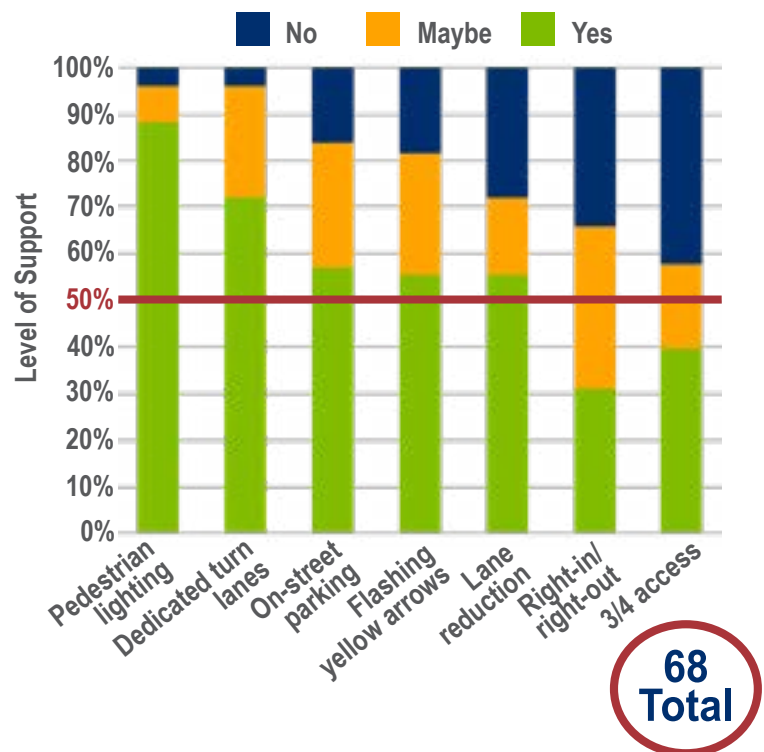
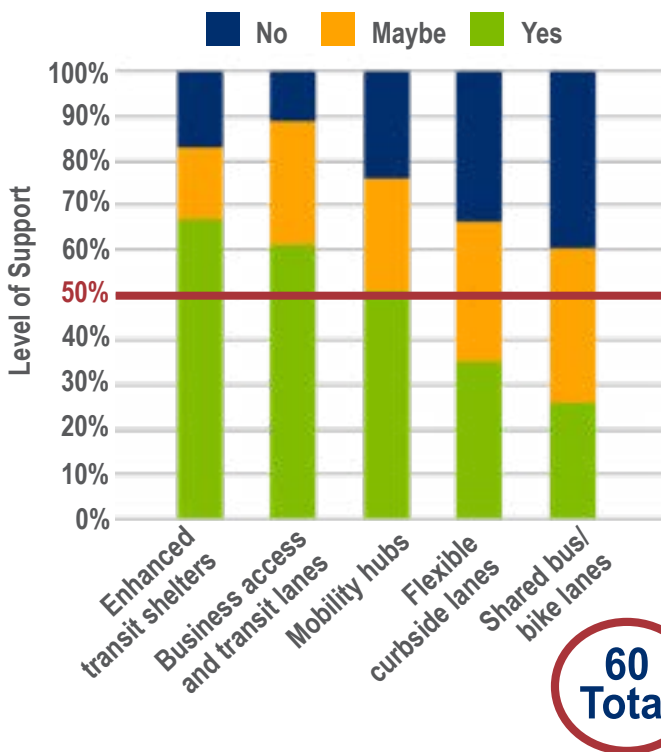
RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 2: Improvement Toolbox Engagement Highlights

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SURVEY



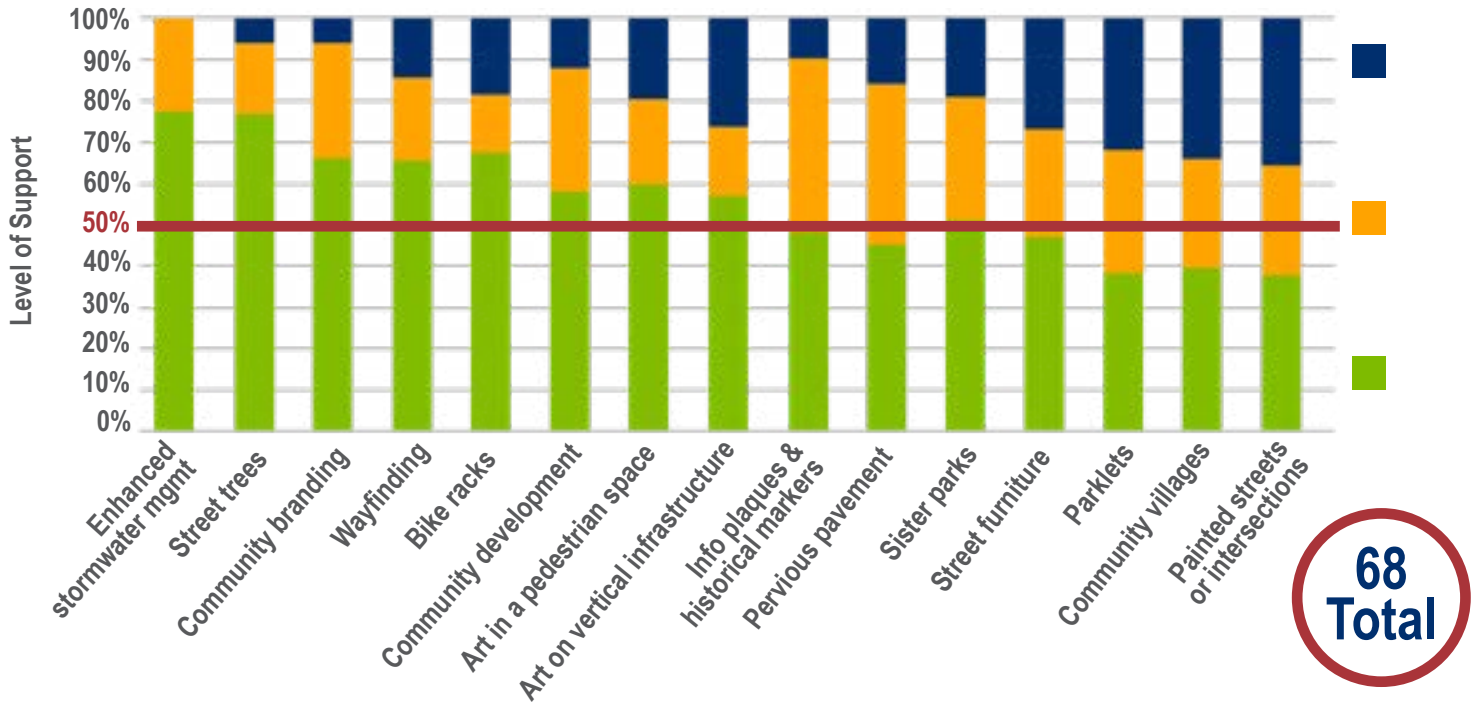
TRANSIT & VEHICLE SURVEY



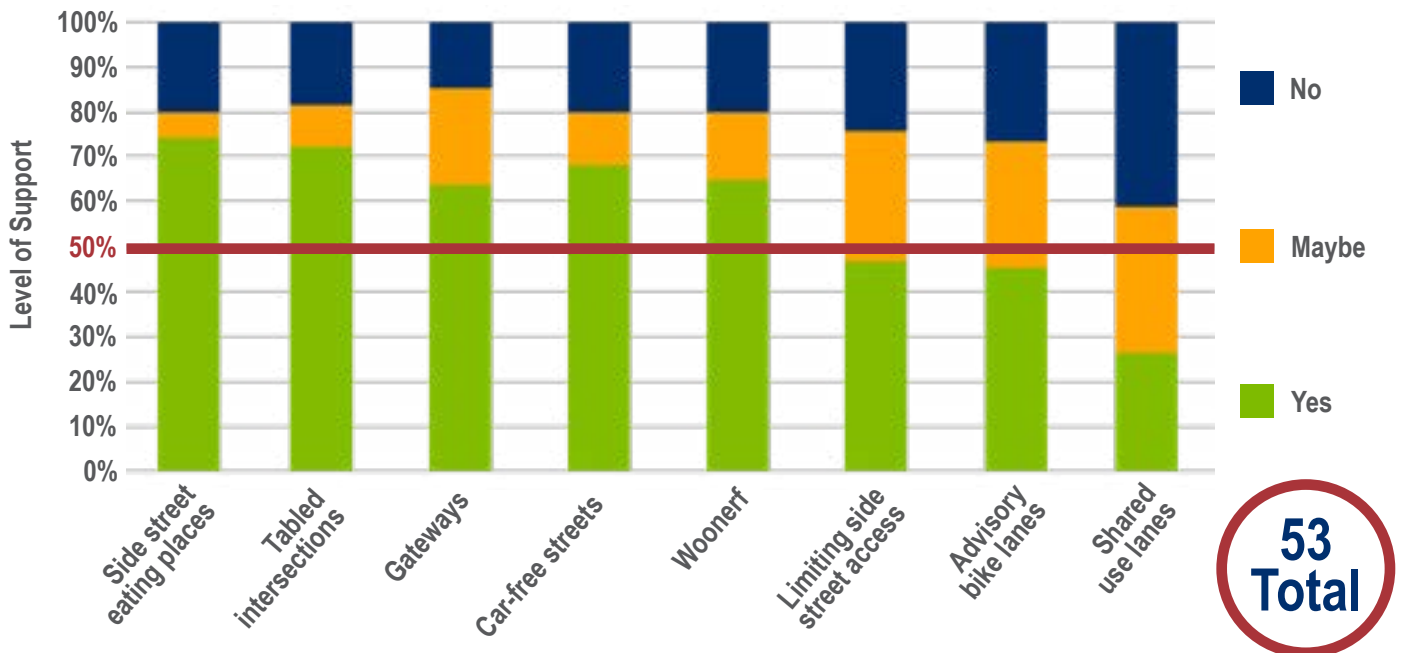
RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 2: Improvement Toolbox Engagement Highlights

STREETSCAPE SURVEY



NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN SURVEY



RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 2: Improvement Toolbox Engagement Highlights

TOOLBOX SURVEY COMMON THEMES

Needs

- Prioritize businesses, transit, non-motorized users and vulnerable populations (children, elderly, disabled).
- Maintain current traffic flow and lanes.
- Safer pedestrian infrastructure (wider sidewalks, medians, pedestrian lighting).
- Traffic calming devices (narrowing lanes).
- Safer bicycle infrastructure (protected bike lanes rather than advisory or shared bike lanes).
- Maintain or increase amount of parking.
- Placemaking (attractive infrastructure, green spaces, art, community branding, historical plaques).

Concerns

- Bus and bike lanes impact on traffic flow.
- Traffic speed and congestion.
- Impacts of limiting side street access.
- Right-of-way space.
- Diversion of traffic to side streets.
- Bike lane usage in winter.
- Winter maintenance of non-motorized facilities.
- Access to businesses.
- Improvement costs.

OPEN HOUSE SURVEY COMMON THEMES

Seven different roadway concepts were presented at the open house. You can review the concepts on the project website.

Concept 1

- » Concern about pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- » Support for dedicated turn lanes.
- » Comments that sidewalks are too narrow.
- » Concern about lack of parking.

Concept 2

- » Road feels comfortable and community oriented.
- » Mixed response about on-street parking and bike lanes.
- » Support for center turn lanes.
- » Concerns about pedestrian safety.

Concept 3

- » Mixed response for the shared use path.
- » Concern about pedestrian conflicts with bicycles and cars.
- » Support for wide boulevards.
- » Concern about lack of parking.

Concept 4

- » Support for large sidewalks and center medians.
- » Desire for permanent parking and bike lanes.
- » Support for removing temporary parking.
- » Concern about traffic backups.

Concept 5

- » Support for balance of non-motorized and motorized uses.
- » Mixed response about on-street parking and bike lanes.
- » Support for larger sidewalks.
- » Concern about lack of center turn lane.

Concept 6

- » Desire for bike lanes and center turn lanes.
- » Positive comments about pedestrian safety.
- » Mixed response about parking.
- » Positive comments about bump-outs.

Concept 7

- » Concerns about bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- » Desire for more parking and wider sidewalks.
- » Negative comments about the prioritization of motorized over non-motorized users.

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 2: Improvement Toolbox Engagement Highlights

POP-UP EVENTS

Plant Pop Up
July 31, 2020

Dars Ice Cream
Aug. 21, 2020

Larpen TOUR
Sept. 26, 2020

Double Dragon Foods
Oct. 17, 2020



Key Quote

“Rice Street redesign NEEDS to be truly transformative.”

Key Quote

“I would like to see cleaner streets and the community coming together more.”



Key Quote

“Our youth are our future, we must build them up to have a better Rice Street.”



RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 3: Roadway Design Options Engagement Summary

From December 2020 to November 2021, the project team gathered feedback on the three roadway design concepts. Members of the public were able to learn about each design and provide their feedback using the online comment map or comment card. At the end of this phase, the project team shared the recommended design at the final open house.

DESIGN OPTIONS PHASE ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



WHAT'S NEXT?

From December 2021 and beyond, the project team will begin developing a plan for how the recommended design will be implemented. This will include more conversations with the community as the design gets refined and a construction timeline is set.

Implementation: December 2021 and Beyond

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 3: Roadway Design Options Engagement Summary

SIDEWALK DECAL ENGAGEMENT



In early August, the project team installed sidewalk decals at key locations along the two-mile long corridor. These decals encouraged the public to visit the website by scanning the QR code or navigating to the URL. These decals will help capture the attention of those visiting the project area.

38
Installed

RICE-LARPENTEUR BLOCK PARTY

100+
Visitors

On August 14th, the project team attended the Rice-Larpenteur Block Party. Visitors to the booth were very receptive and interactive. All of the Rice Street Activity book kits and Rice Street bandannas went to those that attended the booth – there were over 100 people that stopped by. Many people still wanted to talk about the project even after the gifts were gone. The mayor of Maplewood even liked the swag so much that she told the Roseville mayor about it!

At the event, there was also had an extra Hmong language helper to do translation and interpreting. This allowed for the opportunity to get great community feedback down without language barriers.



MARYDALE FESTIVAL



On September 25, the project team attended the Marydale Festival in St. Paul. At the event, the team passed out a variety of goodies such as flower seeds, bandannas, activity books, and more. Our booth also featured an overview of all three design options and several boards outlining tools for people walking, biking, driving, and using transit. Participants were asked to vote for their top three favorite tools they would like to see on Rice Street.

485+
Comments

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 3: Roadway Design Options Engagement Summary

INPUT-ID: CONCEPT A



12 LIKES

- Separated Bike Lanes
- Bike lanes over rail bridges
- Off-street bike facility
- Tighter lanes to slow speeds
- Sidewalks to encourage a healthy community
- Medians
- Addition of turn lanes



6 DISLIKES

- Bike facility ends at Ivy – common route and could be dangerous to end there
- Lack of lanes for passing
- Limited space for parking and transit (Cook Ave)
- Lack of green spaces
- Unnecessary median used over bike lane

22 IDEAS / OPPORTUNITIES

- Trees/ Shrubbery to slow speed and to improve aesthetics
- Bike access from Rice Street Crossing to Trout Creek Trail.
- Addition of separated, automatic bike/ped detection at crossings that differ from motorist signals
- Signals crossings for students including light-up crosswalks with buttons.
- Dedicated stop lines at diagonal crossings.
- Accessible intersections for wheelchairs and scooters. Include bump-outs for ADA crossings
- Wayzata closed for traffic at Rice
- Additional bike infrastructure including bike racks and storage.
- Improved wayfinding signage, trail crossing signs

14 CONCERNS

- Cars will stop inside the crosswalks (Add white line, yield to bike signage)
- Need additional signage/light by heavily trafficked commercial areas.
- Not enough bike infrastructure or signage
- Need additional turn easements to mitigate accidents at dangerous intersections.
- Add infrastructure for pedestrian crossings – lights, timers, bumpouts.
- Want to keeping trees by Rice Street Library
- Add turn arrows at angled intersections to avoid accidents.
- In need of loading zones near storefronts.
- Bump-outs at Manitoba to prevent double parking too close to the Rice street intersection
- Extend cyclist trail on the north side and add signage for Rice Street crossings.

54
Total

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 3: Roadway Design Options Engagement Summary

INPUT-ID CONCEPT B



1 LIKE

- Combined path use idea -- Combining paths for cyclists and pedestrians



1 DISLIKE

- Pedestrians will ignore lanes for bikes/peds, making it less desirable for cyclists



2 IDEAS / OPPORTUNITIES

- Light times lengthened at Maryland for ped/bike crossing. Lots of movement and high speeds make it unsafe
- Turn signals to help traffic flow to 35E



3 CONCERNS

- Shared paths will make riding experience unsafe and uncomfortable for peds/cyclists
- Need more bike storage facilities, especially at Arlington
- Improved signage for bikers and warnings for motorists
- Need safer ped crossings

7
Total

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 3: Roadway Design Options Engagement Summary

INPUT-ID CONCEPT C



0 LIKES

- Positive Comment from the "Other" Section – This concept maximizes green space and sidewalk width evenly on both sides of the street



1 IDEA / OPPORTUNITY

- Too much concrete, keep the trees by Rice Street Library. Add more trees along the route along with native plantings.

3 DISLIKES



- Under-utilization of east-west bike lane connections. Makes unsafe to get to them with no north/south bike lanes on Rice
- Concept prioritizes thru traffic over community safety. (Will do the least to help calm traffic)
- Lack of bike infrastructure

2 CONCERNS



- Sidewalks need to be marked for lanes to separate peds and cyclists.
- Large amount of concrete space that should be green space

2 OTHER



- Where will buses be stopping with only three lanes? Will they be blocking traffic? Rerouting?
- Put the bicycle lane over on Park to slow the traffic there

8
Total

RICE STREET VISIONING STUDY

Phase 3: Roadway Design Options Engagement Summary

— OPEN HOUSE 4: SHARE RECOMMENDED DESIGN —

NOV. 16, 2021

114 ZOOM REGISTRANTS

4 BREAKOUT ROOMS



★ FORMAT: Overview, what we heard, recap of three designs, recommended design, breakout rooms, implementation, next steps

WHAT WE HEARD

- + Support for prioritizing walking and biking on the corridor.
- + Will the shared use path in Concept A and B be confusing for users? Is there an opportunity for separation?
- + All three concepts would be an improvement to Rice Street.
- + How much parking will be available?
- + Start educating the public on how to use Concept B early.
- + Continue to figure out how Concept B can control speeds along Rice Street.
- + Continue to support improved pedestrian crosswalks in all concepts to promote safety.
- + Desire for the final project to aid in community development.

