



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Staff Report: “Fountain Street Bike Lane Improvements” – Downtown - Ward 1 (For Action)

Presented at June 21, 2017 BPAC meeting

Project Description

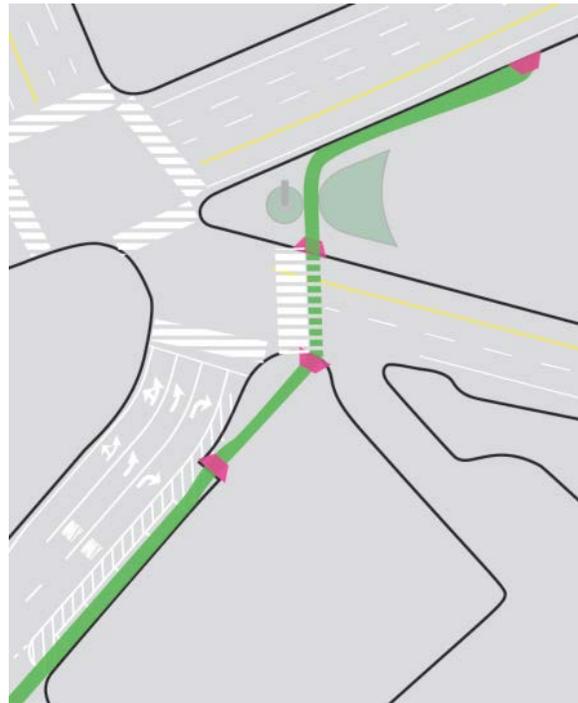
The City seeks comments from the BPAC regarding potential improvements to the separated bike lane on Fountain Street. Staff will present recommendations to address issues of connectivity, collision mitigation, and clarity about parking location. When advanced in the future, this project will come back to the BPAC for preliminary plan review.

The BPAC previously discussed the Fountain Street bike lane at the Commission’s April 2016 and September 2016 meetings.

Staff Recommendations to BPAC

Based on feedback from the public and Commission members received at the previous BPAC meetings during which this project was discussed, staff to the BPAC make the following recommendations:

- Address connectivity issues by installing a safe crossing of Dorrance Street
 - Continue the bike lane past Union Street against the curb
 - Keep on-street parking east of Union Street, but narrow travel lanes to move the four parking spaces away from the curb.
 - Bring the bike lane up to curb level where Fountain Street curves between Union Street and Eddy Street
 - Install four new sidewalk ramps to allow bikes to cross the curbs into Biltmore Park and to Exchange Terrace
 - Paint a dashed green bike lane across Dorrance Street at the crossing
 - Determine if re-timing of the traffic signal is needed to accommodate the new bike crossing across Dorrance Street. All three current phases of the signal send cars across the new bike crossing. Time could be saved by combining the bike signal with an exclusive pedestrian interval phase or with the existing pedestrian crossing phase for the nearby parallel crossing.
 - Move the Dorrance Street stop line back approximately 20 feet to accommodate the new bike crossing.



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- Address connectivity issues by improving bike infrastructure between the end of the Broadway bike lanes at Dean Street and the beginning of the Fountain Street bike lane at Empire Street:
 - Paint dashed green bike lanes across intersections at Dean Street and both Service Roads.
 - Consider a 4-to-3 road diet on the Broadway bridge over I-95 to make space for bike lanes. Also consider adjusting the curbs as part of planned state work on this bridge to allow for a curb-separated bike lane.
 - Replace the existing eastbound bike lane on Broadway between Greene Street and Empire Street with a new curb-separated bike lane between the sidewalk and the fence at the property line.
 - Request citywide approval for the use of two-stage turn boxes and install a two-stage turn box at Empire Street and Fountain Street to facilitate left turns onto the Fountain Street bike lane.
- Address connectivity issues by restriping Empire Street between Fountain Street and Weybosset Street to accommodate bike lanes in both directions.
- Install traffic delineators on Fountain Street in the buffer between the parking lane and the bike lane to improve understanding of correct parking location as well as the bike lane's level of comfort.
- Paint the Fountain Street bike lane with dashed green at all vehicular crossings to improve driver awareness of bike lane.
- Paint entire Fountain Street bike lane solid green.
- Install planters at key points in buffer area.
- Install MUTCD “no parking bike lane” signs in the planters between the bike lane and the parking lane to improve understanding of correct parking location. Include the amount of the parking violation fine (\$175) below the sign.



Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.