



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Staff Report: Douglas Avenue Restriping Project - Smith Hill, Elmhurst, Wanskuck (For Action)

Presented at April 20, 2016 BPAC meeting

Project Description

In Summer 2016, the City of Providence intends to restripe Douglas Avenue from Orms Street to the City Line. As part of that restriping, the City of Providence Department of Public Works has proposed that bike lanes be striped from Chad Brown Street to Chalkstone Avenue. DPW seeks comment from the BPAC regarding their preliminary striping plans.

The Providence Bicycle Master Plan includes proposed bike lanes along the entire length of Douglas Avenue from Orms Street to the City Line. Douglas Avenue serves as an important connection between Downtown and Providence College, Times 2 Academy, the Chad Brown Housing Complex, Mansion Park, and Veazie Street Elementary School.

Project Map



 Proposed Restriping with Bike Lanes

 Proposed Restriping (no bike lanes)

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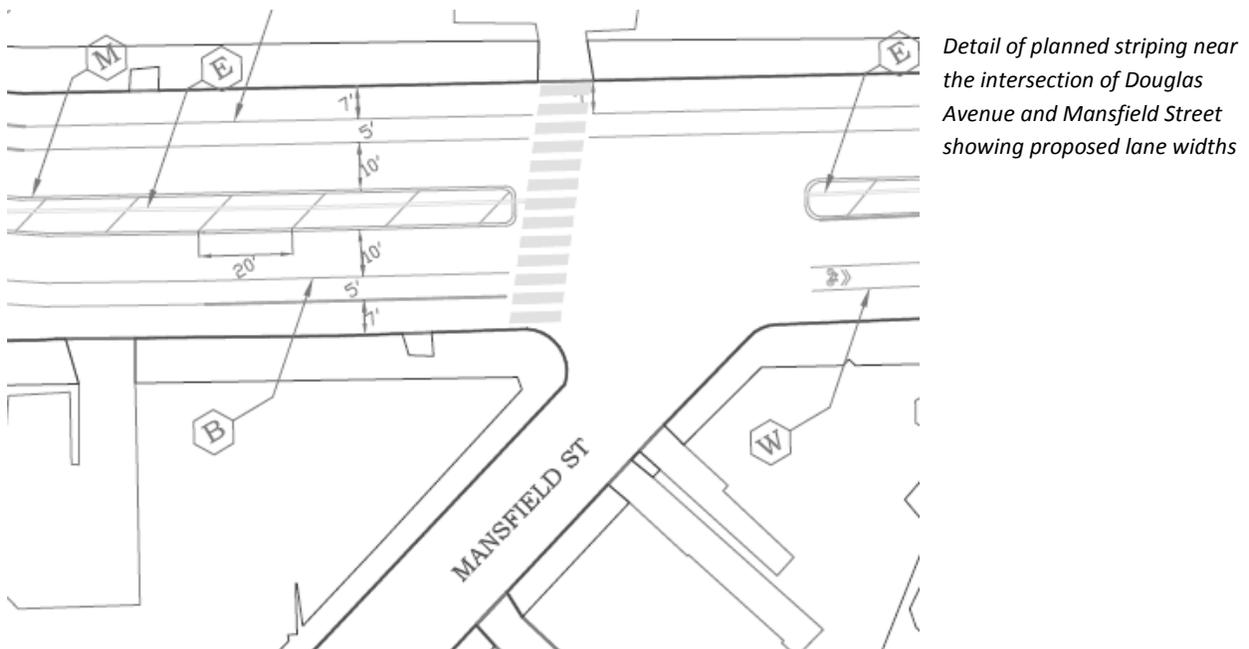
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Staff Recommendations to BPAC

The Department of Public Works has proposed 5' bike lanes in both directions along Douglas Avenue for a 0.3-mile stretch of roadway between Chad Brown Street and Chalkstone Avenue. The 5' wide bike lanes would each be situated between a 10' wide vehicular travel lane and a 7' wide parking lane. There is also a striped center median area that appears to vary between 9' and 5' in width between Chad Brown Street and Crimea Street. See Figure 1, below. **Based on these findings, staff recommends that the center median area be removed and that space instead be allocated to provide 6' wide bike lanes and a painted buffer area between the parking lane and the bike lane.**

Figure 1



It also appears from the plan set submitted by DPW, that sharrows are planned to be painted within the bike lane. **Based on these findings, staff recommends that the proper bike lane stencils be painted within the bike lane, not sharrows.**

The entirety of Douglas Avenue, from Orms Street to the City Line (approximately 2 miles) is being restriped, however, bike lanes are only proposed by DPW for a 0.3-mile portion of the project. **Based on these findings, staff recommends that the proposed bike lanes be extended from the intersection with Chalkstone Avenue all the way to Orms Street.** The curb-to-curb distance in this area ranges from 30' to 35', leaving enough space to accommodate two 10' wide vehicular travel lanes as well as 5' to 6' wide

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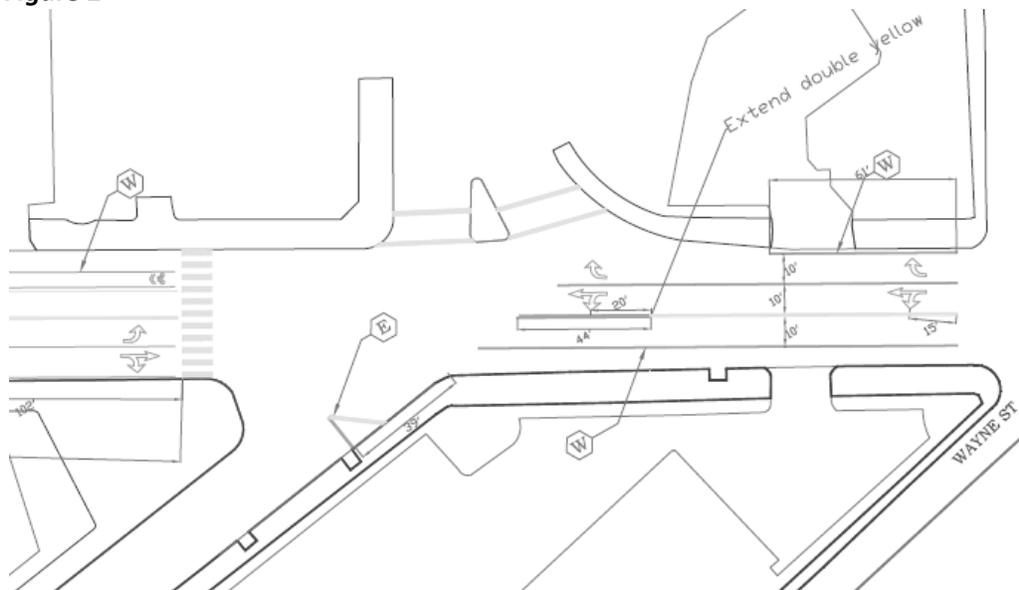
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bike lanes in either direction at the narrowest point. **Based on these findings, staff recommends that the proposed bike lanes be extended from the intersection with Chad Brown Street, north to Eaton Street** to connect with future expansion of bike lanes on Eaton Street and the Providence College campus. The curb-to-curb distance in this area ranges from 33' to 44', leaving enough space to accommodate two 10' wide vehicular travel lanes as well as 6' wide bike lanes in either direction at the narrowest point. Additional street width in the 44' section should be used to accommodate a buffer area for the bike lane.

The plans provided to staff for review do not seem to include crosswalks on all four sides of the intersection of Douglas and Chalkstone Avenues. **Based on these findings, staff recommends that crosswalks be striped on all four side of the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Chalkstone Avenue, and at all other signalized intersections along Douglas Avenue.** The plans provided by DPW do not include crosswalks on all four approaches to the intersection of Chalkstone and Douglas. See Figure 2, below. Restriping of the crosswalks in other locations appears to be unclear at this point. **Staff recommends seeking clarification regarding crosswalk locations from DPW.**

Figure 2



Detail of planned striping near the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Chalkstone Avenue

Respectfully submitted by Martina Haggerty.