



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

Smith Street Repaving, Restriping, and Sidewalk Replacement – Smith Hill, Elmhurst – Wards 5 and 12 (For Action)

Prepared for September 21, 2016 BPAC meeting

Project Description

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation has prepared preliminary plans for Smith Street from Lyndhurst Avenue to Holden Street. Planned improvements include pavement resurfacing, replacement of existing sidewalk and curb, ADA improvements, minor improvements to the existing drainage system, modifications to the existing signals, upgrades to the existing pedestrian facilities, and the installation of new roadway signs and pavement markings. RIDOT also intends to remove existing street trees within the project limits that have caused severe sidewalk damage making sidewalks inaccessible to those who are in wheelchairs or disabled. DPW and DPD seek comment from the BPAC regarding RIDOT's plans.

Smith Street is identified as a future corridor for bike lanes in the Providence Bicycle Master Plan and serves as a key connection between Downtown, Smith Hill, Mount Pleasant, Elmhurst, and North Providence. Major institutions that would benefit from improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along this corridor include Providence College, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams Medical Center, LaSalle Academy, Robert Kennedy Elementary School, Nathanael Greene Middle School, Harry Kizirian Elementary School, St. Pius V elementary School, and St. Patrick Academy. The Candace Street Park and Camden Avenue Park are also within the project boundaries or just off of the corridor within the project boundaries

An online survey issued by the City of Providence Department of Planning and Development in late 2015, resulted in the following suggestions related to this section of Smith Street from residents of Smith Hill and Elmhurst:

- Improve pedestrian crossings along all of Smith Street.
- Establish welcoming gateways to the Elmhurst neighborhood.
- Retime the traffic lights at all intersections along Smith St to ease traffic throughout the neighborhood.
- Study potential for bike lanes and bike boxes along Smith Street.
- Repair the sidewalk on Smith Street near Patrick's Pub.
- Investigate the need for additional lighting at the Smith and Chalkstone Intersection.
- There are multiple areas along side roads & Smith street where street trees can be planted to improve the overall tree canopy in the neighborhood.
- Study opportunities to consolidate bus stops along Smith Street.

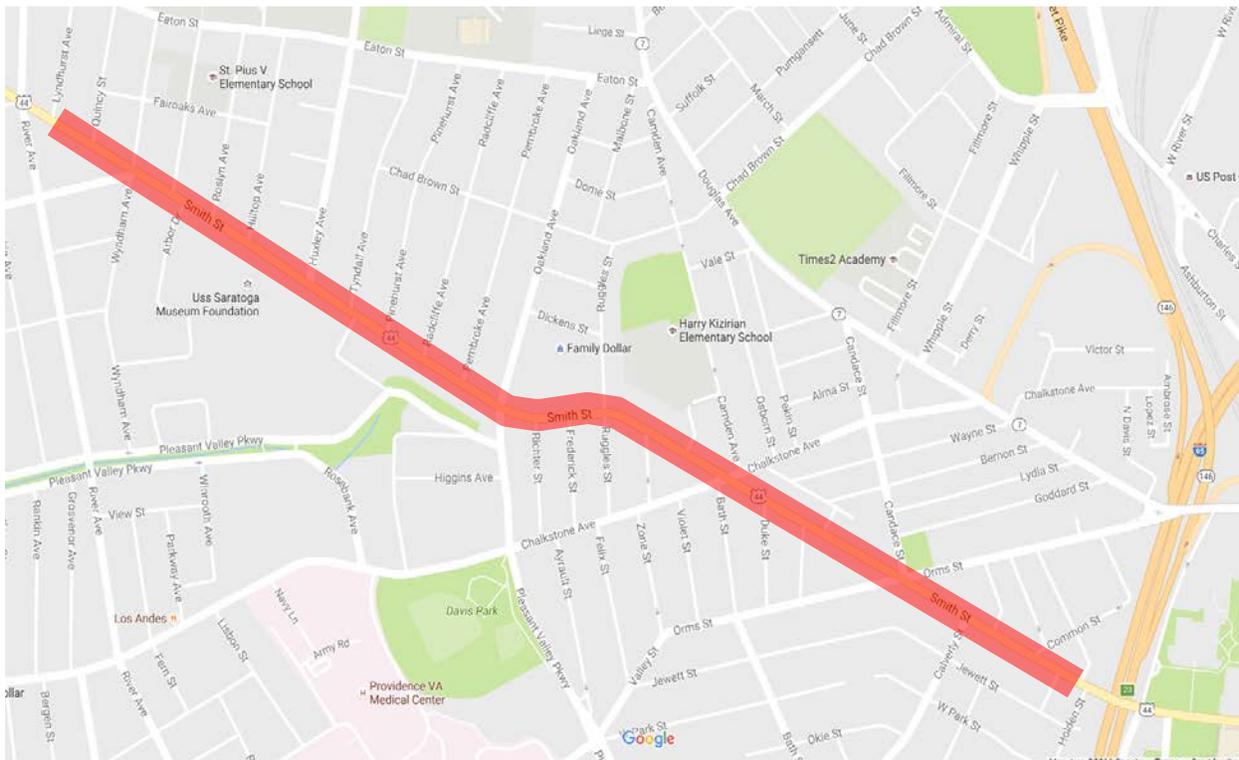


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- Install bus shelters at the bus stops near the of Chad Brown and Douglas, St Patrick's School, and the 7/11 near Chalkstone.

Project Map



Staff Recommendations

After review of RIDOT's plans for the project, DPD staff recommends that the BPAC consider the following recommendations:

- RIDOT should work with the City and neighborhoods to develop a plan to improve pedestrian crossings along Smith Street as part of this project.
- Street trees should be planted along the street to increase the City's tree canopy.



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- RIDOT should work with the City, neighborhoods, and RIPTA to study potential consolidation of RIPTA bus stops along this section of Smith Street to improve trip times for RIPTA buses and reduce the impact to on-street parking as part of this project.
- RIDOT should work with the City and neighborhoods to study the potential for bike lanes along Smith Street, particularly between Holden and Orms streets where the impact to existing on-street parking would be reduced compared to other segments of the corridor. Approximately ten on-street parking spaces would need to be removed along the northern side of Smith Street, between Winsor and Orms, to accommodate bike lanes in both directions along this segment of road. There is currently no parking allowed on the northern side of Smith Street between Holden and Winsor. Parking along the southern edge would not be impacted by a bike lane within this segment of road.
- RIDOT should extend the scope of the project to include bike lanes between Holden Street and Canal Street, where the number and width of vehicular travel lanes could be reduced to accommodate buffered bike lanes, providing a key connection to the east side and similar proposed bike lanes along Canal Street adjacent to Roger Williams National Memorial.

Attachments: 160921_SmithSt_RIDOT Plans.pdf

Respectfully submitted by Martina Haggerty.