

BROAD STREET PUBLIC MEETING 11/16/20 Q+A

Public questions and comments submitted during the Q&A session of the November 16th virtual public meeting have been copied and pasted below. Questions that were answered live have been copied and pasted below. Questions that were not able to be answered live have also been copied and pasted below. Answers have been added below each question.

If you have any further questions, you may direct them to project planner Alex Ellis at aellis@providenceri.gov or 401-680-8522.

In terms of greenery, will only planters be added or will the project plant new trees? / Does this project include a tree canopy plan as well?

Live Answer: That's something that we're starting to think about: once the safety improvements are done, we will work with the City Forester to improve tree canopy on the corridor. The planters will go in right away and then street trees can be planted after construction is over.

Does this project require demolition of properties?

Live Answer (typed): No, this is all contained within the current right-of-way.

Can you detail the ways the community experiencing homelessness have been involved in the planning of this project?

Live Answer: We make sure to post meeting notification flyers to public areas like bus stops so that everyone, including people experiencing homelessness can learn about them. We're always improving our engagement techniques and welcome feedback about how to further engage people throughout Providence.

What about gentrification?

Live Answer: This is a project that is working to improve safety for road users and reduce transportation costs for existing residents. We also realize that just looking at transportation isn't enough and it's important to avoid displacing current residents. That's why we're working on citywide changes at the same time as this project through our [Housing & Anti-displacement study](#).

Can you please define what 'daylighting' is? Will all crosswalks have adjacent parking spaces blocked off via paint, which would otherwise impede visibility of pedestrians, like the rendering? Will there be better visibility coming out of side streets with a car or bike? Usually what happens is cars park right up near the curb. Will there be elements to restrict that?

Live Answer (typed): Yes, every crosswalk and intersection will have daylighting. Daylighting is a design element used to improve visibility at crosswalks between all users. By restricting parking close to intersections and crosswalks, visibility is increased between all modes at these critical junctures.

Will the bike lanes be protected with bollards/physical barriers or just with paint?

Live Answer (typed): Where space allows (south of Plenty Street) the lanes will be protected with vertical elements. For a small section at the north of the project, there is only space for painted bike lanes.

Might I suggest there be multilingual signs reminding parking drivers to look for bike riders before opening car doors.

Live Answer: That is one of the reasons that we prefer to have a buffer zone (3 ft) with the planters which will allow for people to safely get out of their cars without endangering people riding bicycles in the bike lane. Having multilingual signs is also a great idea. Thank you for that suggestion!

It sounds like there will be just one travel lane in each direction so that buses will be sharing the lane with personal vehicles. Is that correct?

Live Answer: Yes. Buses will drive in the same travel lane as cars. The floating bus stops will allow bus riders to board and alight buses more quickly and safely. This makes the process of stopping at each bus stop more efficient, speeds up bus service, and also makes it easier for people to access the bus since the bus will be able to pull directly up to the stop.

Street lighting? I think all the crosswalks should be properly illuminated to prevent pedestrian/car crashes.

Live Answer: We heard a lot about lighting throughout this process. We're going to be looking into improving lighting for those safety reasons, starting with Broad Street between Peace Street and I-95. To improve lighting along all of Broad Street will be a

slightly longer term investment, but we will continue to keep this as a priority for further investment, especially where there are crosswalks.

Has there been an analysis of the background of pedestrians hit by cars?
Does more multilingual signage around pedestrian safety need to be provided?

Live Answer: There has been an analysis of crash history along Broad Street, which was shown earlier in the presentation. Multilingual signage is a great suggestion; there's always more that can be done.

On the project website, it looks like the 'sign up to receive project news and notifications' button goes to an error page.

Answer: The City's server was down the day of the meeting, which caused some issues with the project website, but it should be back up now!

I'm loving this whole gateway center on Broad Street! Could you describe more of what that will look like?

Live Answer: To learn more, you can view the [recording from the recent public meeting](#) about the Roger Williams Park Gateway Center. The project is going out to bid for construction this winter, with construction starting Spring 2021. There will be a new building on the Broad Street side of the property as a community amenity and gateway to the park.

Where do the neighborhoods along Elmwood Ave. figure in the City's plans for neighborhood improvements?

Live Answer: As shown in the [City's Great Streets Master Plan](#), Elmwood Avenue is planned for similar improvements in the future, although those improvements would be several years away and require coordination with RIDOT. Additionally, some residential side streets in the neighborhood will have neighborhood greenway improvements implemented in the near term to emphasize that those are neighborhood streets that are for local use and not speeding through-traffic.

How long is the repaving projected to take and will entire parts of Broad Street be shut down or will it be done in sections?

Live Answer: Our goal is to avoid disrupting businesses as much as possible. The contractor will start with the curb ramps and sidewalk work and then move on to repaving Broad Street in sections. In all, the contractor will take several weeks to repave the entire street, but it will be done in sections. We will remain in touch with businesses and

residents once the contractor is selected and the exact construction schedule becomes clearer and will be sure to minimize disruption as much as possible.

Will we get the JUMP bike back or other rideshare programs? This would go a long way to establishing bike riding as normal regular activity.

Live Answer: The City is currently working to hopefully bring some form of bike share back to Providence. Stay tuned.

Will vacant buildings be addressed in this project?

Live Answer: The Providence Redevelopment Agency (PRA) has been working on vacant and abandoned buildings including both commercial buildings (like Bomes Theatre) as well as residential homes. Over 600 vacant and abandoned residential structures have been renovated through our citywide program. We know this is not a static number - as we renovate, more become in need of renovation. If you have a property in mind that needs help, please get in touch with [Alex](#) for more information.

What is the plan for maintaining planters?

Live Answer: The City applied for and received a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to maintain the planters for one to two years after installation. We will be putting out a bid to community organizations to provide these services, which will include picking up litter from planters and watering plants. This grant provides us more time to develop a long-term plan for maintaining the planters.

Will the bike lanes be cleared of snow?

Live Answer: Yes, the bike lanes will be cleared of snow. The bike lanes are wide enough that standard city plows and street sweeper are able to fit in them. The buffer space between the bike lanes and parking lane also provides space for snow to be stored.

Regarding public artworks, is there a plan to make a call for local artists or will artists be pre-selected (or have they been selected already)?

Live Answer: We are planning to do additional ground murals as we did during the demonstration project. Artists have not been selected yet. To learn about call for artists and other opportunities, stay in touch with the [project website](#) and also follow the City's Office of Art, Culture, and Tourism - they're active on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#).

Is there any money being reserved for repainting, maintenance, etc of this project?

Live Answer: The City's Capital Improvement Program was established a few years ago to ensure we have funds allocated for long-term maintenance of all of our assets, including things like road and shared use path restriping, repaving, and sidewalk repairs. As long as we have the Capital Improvement Program, we will be able to maintain these investments.

Benches along Broad Street would encourage folks to slow down.

Answer: While we're not planning on adding benches as part of this project, we can certainly consider this for the future.

How do we expect police presence along Broad Street to change as a result of increased investment and tourism in this historically underinvested neighborhood?

Answer: While we do not anticipate police presence will be directly impacted in connection to the investments in Broad Street, the City's approach to public safety is responsive and iterative to the evolving needs of the community it serves.

What is the speed limit on Broad Street?

Answer: The speed limit is posted at 25 mph on Broad Street

At night the street changes a lot.... is there consideration for evening bicycles?

Answer: It is always a good idea for people biking at night to use bike lights to remain visible to people driving. That said, the portions of this project that involve physical separation between the urban trail and car traffic will involve fewer interactions between people biking and driving. In the specific context of Broad Street, we have begun discussing how evening activities like increased food truck activity will interact with the urban trail, and we believe the two activities will enhance each other.

What is the plan for parking enforcement in this new design for Broad Street?

Answer: In advance of the project installation, the City will initiate a bilingual outreach program (social media, flyers etc.) to educate area drivers, cyclists and pedestrians about the new changes. Once the project is complete, parking enforcement will help ensure people driving and parking along Broad Street understand how to use the new street configuration. We will continue to coordinate with Parking Enforcement and

engage with the community to ensure a plan is in place to help people adapt to this change.

As a percentage, how does Elmwood Ave. compare to Broad St with respect to car and pedestrian accidents?

Answer: Between 2009 and 2017, Elmwood Avenue had 57% fewer crashes involving bicycles than Broad Street, and 56% fewer crashes involving pedestrians. When looking at bicycle & pedestrian crashes per mile, Elmwood Avenue had 43% fewer crashes per mile. Over that same time period, total crashes of all modes on Elmwood Avenue were 26% fewer than those on Broad Street.

How many [bus] islands in total will be constructed?

Live Answer: Five new bus islands will be constructed as part of the project on the west side of the street in between the travel lane and the Urban Trail. On the east side of the street, bus stops will remain where they are on the existing sidewalk.

How did you get the data on 104 cyclists and pedestrians who were hit by cars on Broad st.? I'm wondering if this is from only those accidents reported to police, etc. and there would likely be more that went unreported.

Live Answer: The information did come from the Police Department. We know that not all crashes are reported, which means that these numbers are likely a low estimate.

I'm also wondering how to make sure how to report crashes to make sure it makes it to the planning dept.

Live Answer: Yes! This is a tricky problem, and we're open to suggestions.

Is there monitoring of racial equity issues in the companies hired to do all of this work? And can Southside young folks be apprenticed with these companies?

Live Answer: Yes, there are requirements for woman- and minority-owned businesses in all city contracting.

Are chimi trucks going to be affected by these changes?

Live Answer: There will still be on street parallel parking on both sides of Broad Street in front of businesses, so there will still be space for chimi trucks (and parking for

businesses) throughout the corridor. We heard loud and clear throughout the process that this is important.

How much do these improvements cost and where is the money coming from? How is this connected to the Capital Improvement Plan \$ for Trinity Square?

Live Answer: This is about a \$3.5 million investment. About \$600,000 is coming from the State Transportation Improvement Program, while the rest of the money is coming from the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). There is also a separate part of the Capital Improvement Plan that will focus on the area surrounding Trinity Square, independent of that \$3.5 million.

What kinds of changes can we expect in the Barbara Jordan 2 area?

Live Answer: In the near future, the City will be investing about \$7 million from the CIP into the area around Trinity Square and RI Housing's redevelopment of Barbara Jordan II. We are looking at all of the side streets around Barbara Jordan II getting repaved and sidewalk repairs too. Other considerations for the area may include street trees, tree guards, how we can improve accessibility on the sidewalks to meet ADA requirements, and lighting on Upper Broad Street and side streets to make sure they are well-lit.

covered bus stops for riders?

Answer: There aren't any plans to change the bus shelters that are out there today, but we all know that Broad Street is a heavily used street for transportation. We will continue to work closely with RIPTA to ensure that further improvements for bus passengers are taken into consideration for any future plans.

Will there be electric buses?

Answer: RIPTA has integrated some electric buses into its fleet and has plans for more. You can read more at <https://www.ripta.com/projects/electric-bus/>.