

## North Sycamore Street Complete Streets Project (Langston Boulevard to 19<sup>th</sup> Street North) – Concept Design Engagement Summary

### Project Background

#### What are the goals of this project?

North Sycamore Street presents intersection crossing challenges for people walking and biking. The project will improve bicycle and pedestrian access on North Sycamore Street from Langston Boulevard to 19<sup>th</sup> Street North.

#### What is the current status of the project?

DES staff are reviewing public comments received from the concept engagement launched in November 2022. Staff will use community feedback, data, and planning guidance to finalize the design, which we anticipate sharing in summer 2023.

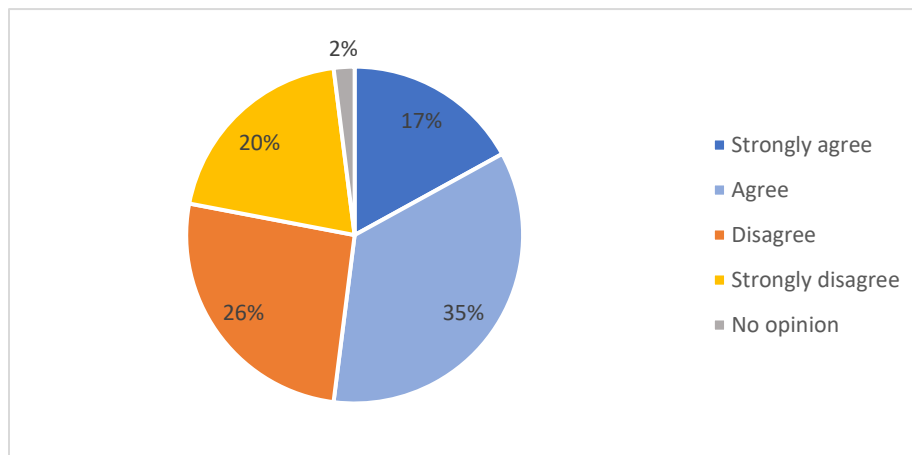
### Public Engagement

In November 2022, the project team hosted an online meeting to introduce a concept design. The concept design was developed based on previous community feedback about challenges with existing conditions. Following an online meeting, feedback was collected online via a form and interactive map. These were open from November 3-November 28. During that time, staff received 88 responses to the online form, with 70 people sharing open-ended feedback comments. Participants were also able to leave location specific feedback on an interactive map. Respondents left 38 individual map comments, which received 124 engagements (comments receiving likes/dislikes).

### What We Heard

**Question 1:** The concept design will have a positive impact on how I travel along N. Sycamore Street.

**52% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the concept design would have a positive impact on how they travel along N. Sycamore Street.**



**Question 2:** Overall, how safe would the concept design make you feel while traveling along N. Sycamore Street while using the following modes of transportation?

- **Walking:** 49% of respondents indicated the concept design would make them feel safe or very safe; 39% indicated it would make them feel unsafe or very unsafe; 13% felt neutral
- **Biking:** 30% of respondents indicated the concept design would make them feel safe or very safe; 43% indicated it would make the feel unsafe or very unsafe; 24% felt neutral
- **Using transit:** 54% of respondents indicated the concept design would make them feel safe or very safe; 9% indicated it would make the feel unsafe or very unsafe; 35% felt neutral
- **Using a scooter:** 14% of respondents indicated the concept design would make them feel safe or very safe; 38% indicated it would make the feel unsafe or very unsafe; 24% felt neutral
- **Driving a motor vehicle:** 49% of respondents indicated the concept design would make them feel safe or very safe; 20% indicated it would make the feel unsafe or very unsafe; 28% felt neutral

Below are common themes associated with the comments received from the open-ended and interactive map feedback tool. The themes are generally grouped by intersections in the project area.

### Langston Boulevard Intersection

- Desire for clearer markings for bike lanes
- Desire for more direct sidewalk for pedestrians
- Interest in better use of existing under-utilized asphalt space near the southbound bus stop, located south of the intersection

What we are doing: The project team is reviewing bike lane markings and sidewalk design. We are also working with our interdisciplinary team to evaluate the under-utilized right-of-way space near the southbound bus stop.

### 22nd Street North Intersection

- Desire for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)
- Interest in relocating the proposed crosswalk to the south leg of the intersection, as there is a continuous sidewalk east of the intersection
- Desire for protected intersection features for bike lanes

What we are doing: The project team is evaluating if the proposed crosswalk meets the criteria for RRFB to be installed. The proposed marked crosswalk is recommended to remain on the north leg of the intersection because there are less conflicts between people walking and people driving, particularly from turning motor vehicle traffic. The project team is reviewing opportunities to provide protected intersection features.

### Washington Boulevard Intersection

- Desire for protected intersection features for bike lanes

What we are doing: The project team is evaluating striping changes to enable more awareness of bicyclists and vehicular drivers at the intersection. We do not have sufficient right-of-way to expand the intersection footprint, which would be necessary to add protected intersection features. Existing

vehicle travel lanes are needed to facilitate traffic to and from I-66 without creating delay that would have a severe negative impact on nearby intersections.

### **I-66 Off-Ramp Intersection**

- Desire for better sight lines
- Desire for direct connection to northbound bike lane from the Metro station

What we are doing: As the project progresses in design, geometric changes and vegetation pruning will be reviewed to help improve sight distance. The team is also working with the East Falls Church Bus Bay Expansion Project to find opportunities to provide a bike crossing of North Sycamore Street.

### **19th Street North Intersection**

- Desire for a diagonal trail path across the park
- Desire for a curb extension on the southeast quadrant of 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuckahoe

What we are doing: The proposed trail realignment in the southeast quadrant of 19<sup>th</sup>/Sycamore is a County trail through a County park. The project team is coordinating the trail alignment with the Department of Parks and Recreation. The project team will be reviewing the feasibility of installing a curb extension at the southeast quadrant of 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuckahoe.

### **Corridor-Wide**

- Concerns about traffic impact related to proposed removal of slip lanes and right turn lanes

What we are doing: Traffic impacts of the proposed improvements, including slip ramp removals at Langston Boulevard and at I-66 off-ramp, are analyzed as part of the next phase of design work. The traffic analysis and final design will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for review and approval.

- Desire for protected bike lanes

What we are doing: Two through lanes in each direction are needed to safely facilitate traffic volume to and from I-66 in corridor, so the existing lanes need to be maintained. To facilitate movement for people biking, the project has proposed to install vertical separation for the bike lanes as they approach intersections in the corridor (Langston Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, and 19<sup>th</sup> St N.). To install this separation, a through lane will be converted to a through-right lane and right turn lane will be removed. This design provides more space for people biking, as well as visually narrowing the roadway to encourage vehicle drivers to slow down as they approach the intersection. The proposed right turn lane removal and conversion is part of the traffic analysis and coordination with VDOT.

- Desire for better pedestrian experience through signs and signals

What we are doing: These treatments are considered spot improvements. After the project is installed, the County will consider treatment, such as installing "No Right Turn on Red" signs and implementing Leading Pedestrian Intervals at intersections.

### **Bus Bay Expansion at East Falls Church Metro Station**

Construction is anticipated in late summer 2023. Comments that have a direct impact on the Bus Bay Expansion at East Falls Church Metro Station have been passed along to the project manager for the transit project. More information can be found here: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/Bus-Bay-Expansion-at-East-Falls-Church-Metro-Station>.

## W&OD Trail Connection at 19th Street North

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) has a bridge feasibility project to study alternatives to address the gap at this location. The recommendations from the study will be used as basis to request funding for a future capital project.

## Next Steps

The project team is working on the development of a final concept, pending VDOT review of the traffic analysis. We are anticipating a final concept in fall 2023.

To stay up to date, please subscribe to Northern Arlington Transportation Update. This can be found on the right side of the project webpage:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/N-Sycamore-Street-Complete-Streets-Project>

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