

PROJECT UPDATE October 2020

3rd and 5th Avenues Improvement Project (North of McDowell)

From the Desk of Street Transportation Director Kini Knudson

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department greatly appreciates the response we received at our July 30 virtual meeting and in the surveys completed following that presentation. A recording of the July 30 meeting is available online at phoenix.gov/streets/3rdand5thAvenuesNorth. We had more than 155 people participate in the virtual meeting and received 190 survey responses.

The outreach effort resulted in three key design decisions based on stakeholder input combined with a review of traffic volumes and collision data, and engineering judgment. The project team also evaluated how this project connects with bike lanes and other capital improvement projects to determine which design should advance.

Design Decisions

- We are reviewing options and cost estimates to establish a continuous pedestrian path on 5th Avenue between Encanto Boulevard and Thomas Road (a combination of traditional sidewalks and protected on-street pedestrian walkways). We understand this is desired by many residents but there are feasibility issues to be resolved.
- The intersection of 3rd Avenue and Encanto Boulevard will be designed using the [curved travel path](#).
- 3rd Avenue will be designed to include an ‘all ages and abilities’ [two-way cycle track](#). The opportunity to connect with the cycle track south of McDowell Road and improve this portion of the Sonoran Bikeway are strong reasons supporting the cycle track option.

The segment of 3rd Avenue from approximately Van Buren Street to Maryland Avenue is part of the Phoenix Sonoran Bikeway. The addition of a two-way cycle track between McDowell and Thomas Roads will provide better protection for people riding bicycles, while also providing greater separation between people walking and people driving. It will also connect to the two-way cycle track currently being installed south of McDowell Road as well as future bicycle infrastructure improvements north of Thomas Road.

Next Steps

Street Transportation staff will continue with the design as described above. The next opportunity for public engagement will be at the 60% design stage, which we expect to share in early 2021.

On behalf of the city of Phoenix and the Street Transportation team, we thank you for staying engaged and for guiding the outcome of this design. View this and other major projects on our website at phoenix.gov/streets/projects.