

AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE NETWORK

Neighborhood Taskforce
Meeting #2

April 14, 2021



GOALS FOR TODAY

- ▶ Recap what we heard at the last meeting
- ▶ Review short-term projects for Austin
- ▶ Discuss potential designs for short-term projects
- ▶ Discuss outreach with the community

INTRODUCTIONS

- ▶ Is there anyone new who could not join us for the first taskforce meeting?
- ▶ What initiatives is your group working on in Austin?
How can bicycling contribute to that effort?

WHAT WE HEARD

What's already going on in Austin?

- ▶ Community led planning (Invest South/West, Austin Quality of Life)
- ▶ Growing numbers of people biking and participating in community rides in Austin

How to engage with the community

- ▶ Austin is a community based on relationships
- ▶ Trusted community leaders is the only way to effectively get your message out
- ▶ Engage with young people, especially through the schools and sports programs
- ▶ A strong network of block clubs

WHAT WE HEARD

Perceptions of biking in Austin

- ▶ Lots of young people are riding bikes
- ▶ Many people are biking through Austin from Oak Park to Chicago
- ▶ Concentrate on neighborhood streets that connect community assets

Barriers to biking in Austin

- ▶ Safety, connectivity, and visibility
- ▶ Concern over sharing space with cars, especially on narrow, one-way streets
- ▶ Lack of safe neighborhood routes to get people to their destinations
- ▶ Small businesses worried about impacts to street parking and vehicle operations

WHAT WE HEARD

Streets and destinations important to Austin

- ▶ Connect to schools, parks, and other community assets
- ▶ Improve access to nearby communities
- ▶ Erase the “invisible lines” between neighborhoods
- ▶ Connect to Austin’s prominent and historical architecture

WHAT WE'VE DONE SINCE LAST MEETING

- ▶ Developed a draft network of bike routes based on your feedback and identified what is possible on each street
- ▶ Looked at traffic crashes in Austin
- ▶ Coordinated resources to provide more bike parking this year in Austin
- ▶ Coordinating bike education events in Austin
- ▶ Developed a survey to better understand how people get around in the neighborhood
- ▶ Created materials to help you start talking about this effort with your neighbors

DRAFT BIKE NETWORK

- ▶ Short-term projects we can install in 2021 and 2022
- ▶ Long-term projects which need more collaboration and analysis before they can be installed

TRAFFIC CRASHES IN AUSTIN

Austin is a **High Crash Area**

In five years (2014-2018):

- ▶ 19,000 traffic crashes (3,800 per year)
- ▶ 5,400 people injured (1,080 per year)
- ▶ 25 people killed (five per year)
- ▶ Most crashes occur on arterial/commercial streets
- ▶ Cicero is a hot spot for crashes involving people walking and biking

DEVELOPING THE NETWORK

Looked at 23 miles of streets in Austin

- ▶ 12 miles of short-term projects
- ▶ 11 miles of long-term projects

Developed a network based on:

- ▶ Connections to important destinations and the existing bike network
- ▶ Geographical coverage in the neighborhood
- ▶ What designs are possible to install this year

DEVELOPING THE NETWORK

	Streets	Bikeways	%
Today in Austin	134 miles	5 miles	4%
After Short-Term Projects	134 miles	17.5 miles	13%
Chicago Average			8%

PROPOSED DESIGNS

- ▶ What can be designed and installed this year
- ▶ Does not mean we cannot upgrade these projects in the future
- ▶ Help us identify who we need to talk to for each route (block groups, churches, important businesses, etc)

MAKING BIKE ROUTES MORE COMFORTABLE

Separating Bikes from Cars

- ▶ Consolidating on-street parking to install protected bike lanes

Reducing the Speed of Cars

- ▶ Lowering the speed limit to 20 MPH, installing speed humps and pedestrian bumpouts

Reducing the Number of Cars

- ▶ Prohibiting cut through traffic on neighborhood streets

Each strategy requires tradeoffs. Help us find the right balance for each street.

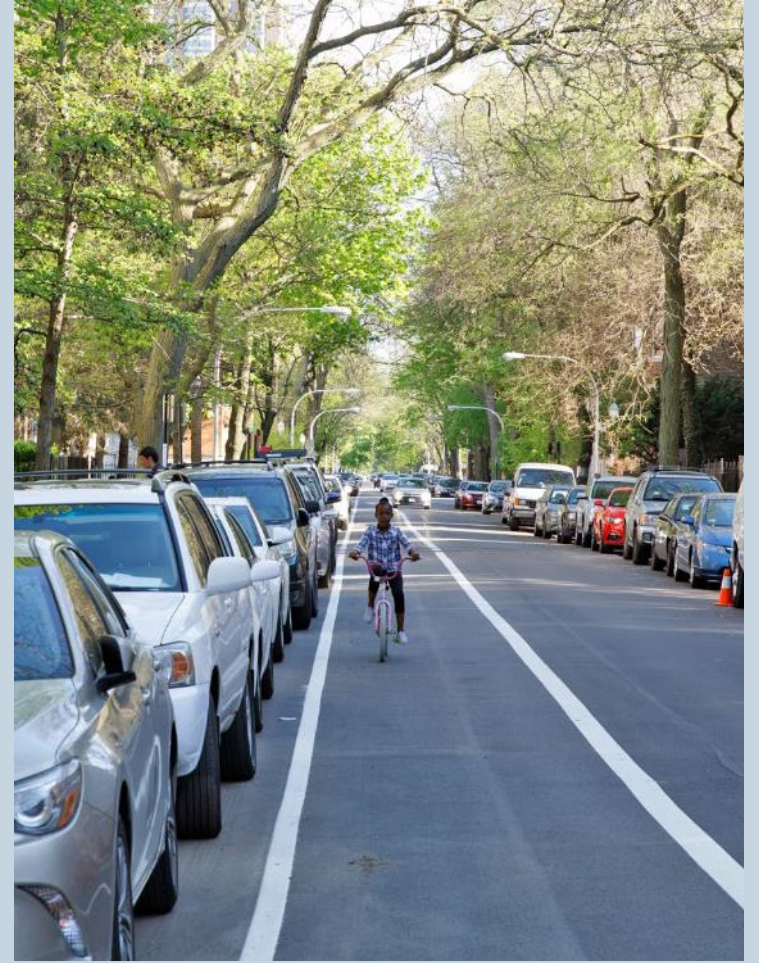
NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE ROUTES

- ▶ Low-volume residential streets (side streets) that are designated for people biking
- ▶ Low-stress alternative to busy arterial streets
- ▶ Connect to community assets
- ▶ Traffic signals/stop signs to cross most busy intersections

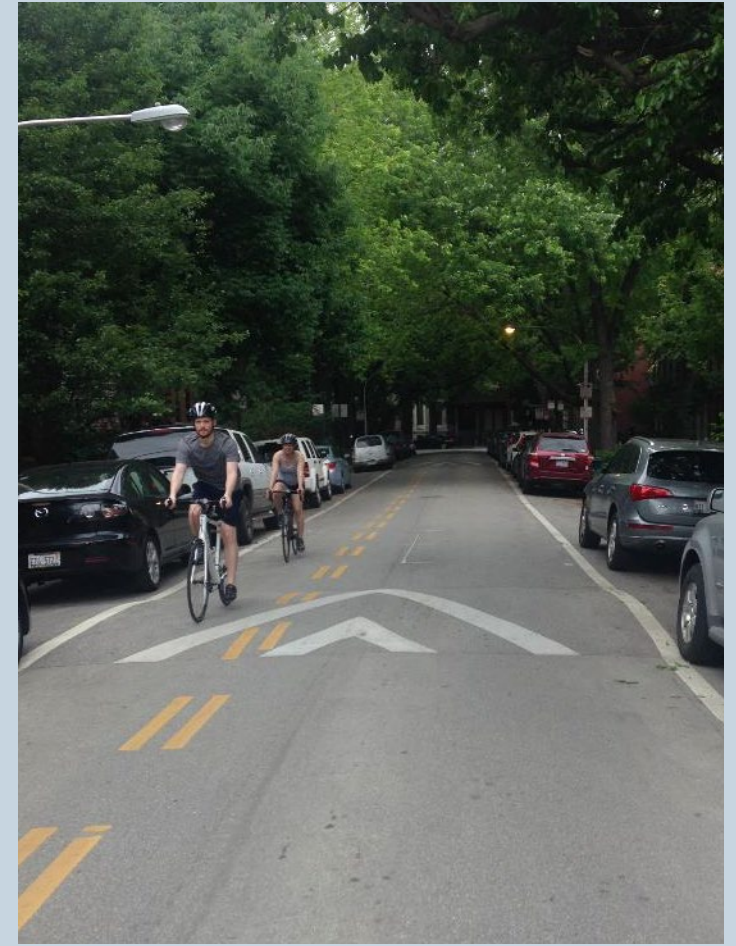
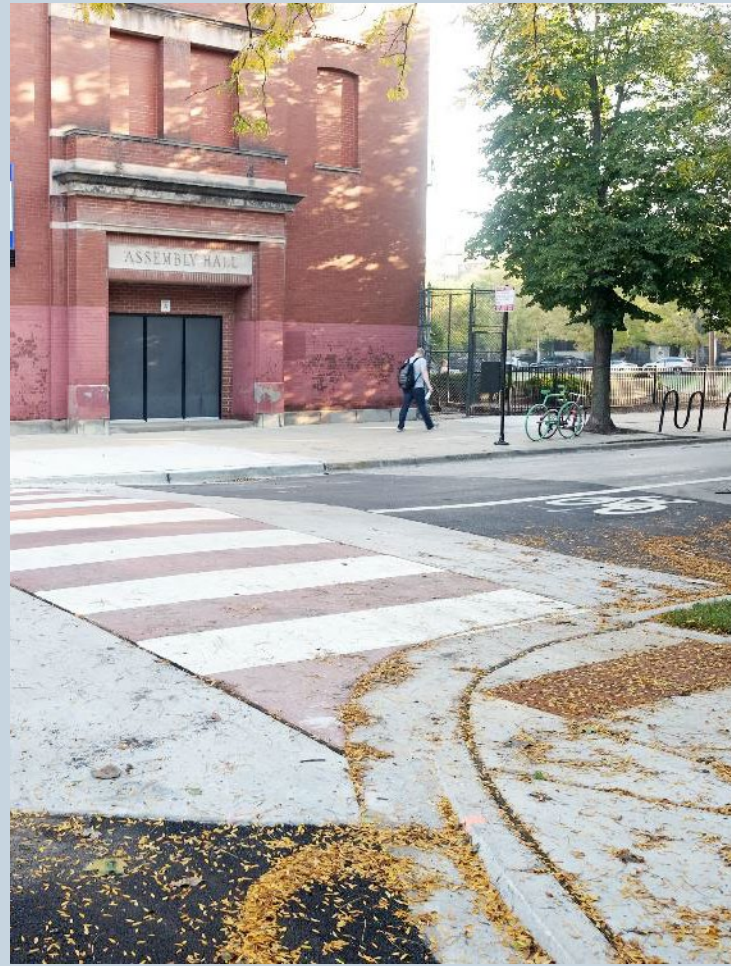
Can be made more comfortable by:

- ▶ **Reducing the Speed of Cars** – Traffic calming elements to encourage safe travel speeds by people driving
- ▶ **Reducing the Number of Cars** – Prohibiting cut-through traffic at strategic locations

NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE ROUTE



TRAFFIC CALMING



Neighborhood Bike Routes



BIKE LANES

- ▶ Commercial streets in Austin are very narrow
- ▶ Limited opportunity for protected bike lanes in the short term without significant tradeoffs with on-street parking

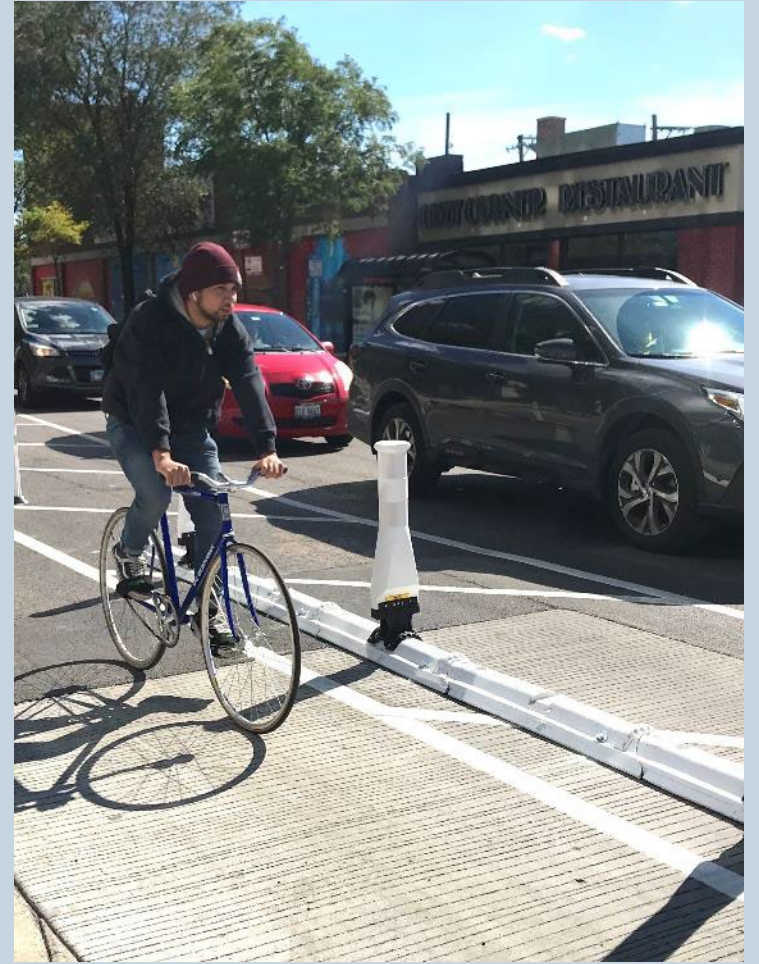
Streets can be made more comfortable by:

- ▶ **Separating Bikes from Cars** – Consolidating on-street parking to install protected bike lanes
- ▶ **Reducing the Speed of Cars** – Traffic calming elements to encourage safe travel speeds by people driving

BIKE LANES



PROTECTED BIKE LANES



Bike Lanes



- Existing Bikeway Infrastructure**
- Bikeway
- Draft Potential Bikeway Projects**
- 2021/22 Neighborhood Project
 - 2021/22 Connector Project
 - 2022+ Potential Project
- Transportation**
- Divvy Station
 - Metra Station
 - CTA Station



NEXT STEPS FOR OUTREACH

- ▶ Promoting the survey
- ▶ Conversations with youth organizations
- ▶ General outreach for the effort
- ▶ Targeted outreach for specific routes

ONLINE SURVEY

- ▶ Will help us understand how people currently and want to get around and how bicycling is perceived
- ▶ Will help direct our outreach
- ▶ Need your help promoting the survey
- ▶ Flyers, text, and graphics you can distribute via email, social media, newsletters, and events
- ▶ We can send printed flyers to you



NEIGHBORHOOD BIKE NETWORKS



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is partnering with community members to identify and build a connected bicycle network in 2021 in the Austin, Belmont Cragin, and North Lawndale neighborhoods. This will include on-street bike routes linking together schools, parks, local businesses, and other important destinations so people have safe, healthy, and fun options for getting around the neighborhood. Making our streets more comfortable for biking will improve safety and accessibility for everyone.

Take a short online survey to help us understand how you choose to get around in your neighborhood, how bicycling is perceived in the community, and how a network of bike routes may impact you. This survey is your first opportunity to get involved in this exciting effort.



Scan the QR code on your mobile phone to take you directly to the survey.

Help us make biking safe, convenient, and better connected to the places you want and need to go in your community.

bit.ly/CDOTBikes

The survey is available in English and Spanish and will remain open until May 31, 2021.

For questions related to the project or online survey, visit the project website at chicago.com/completestreets.org/projects/active-projects/ or contact the Public Involvement Lead Berenice Alvarez at balvarez@morrealecomm.com or 773-413-9392.

April 2021

OTHER OUTREACH

- ▶ Scheduling meetings with youth organizations to talk about these proposed projects
- ▶ What important community events are coming up in Austin?
- ▶ How can we help you talk about this effort with the community?
- ▶ We want to begin targeted outreach with key stakeholders along each route
 - Block clubs, churches, important businesses, etc

THANK YOU!

- ▶ Let's continue the conversation. We can email, talk on the phone, or schedule a follow up virtual meeting.
- ▶ The third Taskforce meeting is planned for May
- ▶ Online map for feedback coming soon