

Charles Avenue Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose and extent of the project?

A: The purpose of the Charles Avenue project is to develop improvements along Charles Street, as directed in the [Bike Walk Central Corridor Action plan](#) (adopted by the Saint Paul City Council in May 2010) and further refined as part of the [Central Corridor Friendly Streets grass roots initiative](#). These improvements will make travel safer and more pleasant for people no matter how they want to get around, whether on foot, on bike, or by car. The project length will span from Aldine Street to Park Street along Charles Avenue.

Q: What is the Central Corridor Friendly Streets initiative?

A: Since the summer of 2011, almost 900 people participated in eight [Central Corridor Friendly Streets](#) events, including five block parties along Charles Avenue in summer 2011. Attendees at the eight events cast over 2400 “votes” on three dozen images of street design and placemaking concepts, expressing their like, dislike, or ambivalence about traffic circles, bumpouts, speed bumps, bike boulevard striping and signage, alternative signalization, public art, and more. Additionally, over 200 people completed detailed surveys to gather input about how to make street more inviting and safe for all users. From this input, a design was developed for street improvements. The proposed design includes elements to:

- Slow average traffic speeds;
- Green the street by adding new opportunities for landscaping;
- Make it safer to cross major north-south streets; and
- Provide a quiet route for bicyclists of all ages and abilities.

Q: Will emergency vehicles be able to reach our neighborhood?

A: The Fire Department has stated that the mountable medians and typical traffic circles proposed on Charles Avenue do not significantly impede emergency access. Fire department officials attended the public meeting on July 17th to provide input on the design.

Q: How will snow plowing be effected on Charles Avenue?

A: Saint Paul Public Works Street Maintenance will continue to plow streets with the big trucks on the first pass. The traffic circles do require an extra effort to further remove snow, and the City does have the equipment to do them.

Q. How would the infrastructure improvements be funded?

A. Saint Paul is working to secure a federal grant for biking and walking improvements. This federal source has previously provided funding for improvements on Como, Marshall, Jefferson, and Griggs.

Q: How can I give input on the proposed design?

A: There are several ways to comment. Any of these options are interchangeable - in each case your input will be included and considered in the official public record.

- Write a comment card at the open house on July 25, 2012.
- Comment online at www.stpaul.gov/open
- Send comments to Christina Morrison, 25 W. 4th Street, #1200, Saint Paul, MN 55102 or christina.morrison@ci.stpaul.mn.us
- Testify in person at the City Council meeting on September 5, 2012 at 5:30 pm, Council Chambers, 3rd floor, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard.

Q. Where can I find more information?

A: For more information, and to view the proposed design, please visit the City's project website at www.stpaul.gov/charles, or contact Christina Morrison at 651-266-6546 or christina.morrison@ci.stpaul.mn.us.