



2025 Central High School Crossing Improvements Project Safe Routes to School

April 21, 2025

Dear Saint Paul Resident/Property Owner,

The City of Saint Paul is working to improve the streets in your neighborhood. In Summer 2025, the city will be constructing crossing improvements at the intersections of Marshall Avenue and Dunlap Street, Marshall Avenue and Lexington Parkway, and Marshall Avenue and Oxford Street. These improvements will make walking and biking to Central High School and Oxford Community Center/Jimmy Lee Rec Center more comfortable for the neighborhood and school community.

Location of project work

- Dunlap Street and Marshall Avenue
 - Bumpouts (curb extensions) will be constructed on the southwest and southeast corners.
 - A pedestrian refuge median will be constructed in the existing center turn lane.
 - The yellow and white plastic flexible posts will be removed.
 - After construction, the intersection will function in the same way it has since the flexible posts were installed in September 2023. Left turns and north-south movements for cars at Dunlap Street will not be allowed. Right turns will still be allowed.
- Lexington Parkway and Marshall Avenue
 - Existing white flexible plastic posts on the northwest corner of Marshall Avenue will be removed and a permanent curb will be constructed in their place.
- Oxford Street and Marshall Avenue
 - Bumpouts (curb extensions) into Marshall Avenue will be constructed on the northeast and southeast corners.
 - A center pedestrian refuge median will also be added.
 - Drivers will still be able to make all movements, including north-south movements, left, and right turns.

About the project

The city is committed to improving safety and comfort for people walking and biking in the city, especially near schools and recreation centers. Central High School and Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) staff have long identified the crossing at Dunlap Street and Marshall Avenue as a concern. Students have shared with staff how unsafe they feel walking across Marshall Avenue because of all the turning cars and people at arrival and dismissal times.

In 2023, the city installed flexible plastic posts to “test” a permanent concrete construction. After installation of the plastic posts, the city and SPPS surveyed the school community to receive feedback. Of the 39 people who responded to the survey, 59 percent of them said that crossing Marshall Avenue felt more comfortable with the test posts than without the posts. Some reactions to the plastic posts from the Central community:

- “I am so glad and relieved that it is there. That junction used to feel dangerous, with too much going on at the same time during high traffic hours. Now it feels very simple and very safe.”
- “It was somewhat annoying to not be able to turn, but I’ve found an alternative route that works just as well.”
- “I think it’s a really good addition and makes the students be able to walk safer and cars be able to drive safer!”

How the project is funded

Following the positive feedback from the school community, the city applied for and was awarded a MnDOT Safe Routes to School grant to fund permanent construction of the median at Dunlap Street in summer 2025. The awarded funding also allows the city to make improvements at Lexington Parkway and Oxford Street described above and shown below. There will be no cost to nearby properties.

Project updates

To sign up for email updates related to construction impacts and for additional information, please visit the project website at stpaul.gov/CentralSRTS.

For any questions, please contact Public Works at 651-266-6100 or publicworksinfo@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Thank you,
Saint Paul Public Works

CITY OF SAINT PAUL
MELVIN CARTER, MAYOR

Need this translated? Call us at 651-266-6100.

¿Necesita esta traducción? Comuníquese con nosotros al 651-266-6100.

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