

Earl Street Reconstruction Project

Minnehaha Avenue to Maryland Avenue (Phase 1)



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

Public Engagement Summary

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM | Txuj Ci HMong Language & Culture - Lower Campus

Overview

The Earl Street Phase 1 reconstruction project continued in its commitment to keeping the community informed with a fifth open house held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Txuj Ci HMong Language & Culture - Lower Campus. The primary goals of this event were to **present the selected roadway design** and to **answer questions about the assessment process** ahead of the City Council Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. This summary provides an overview of what we heard during the event.



14

Open house attendees



25

Online comments received
January 12 - 18



Key Themes and Takeaways

- **Attendees were supportive of improving pedestrian safety** with median islands at Bush Avenue and Cook Avenue.
- **Strong opposition was expressed regarding the proposed median island at Jessamine Avenue.** The removal of trees at this intersection was a top concern particularly for adjacent residents.
- **Construction impacts were a main priority for residents with frontage on Earl Street.** Residents requested information regarding access to their homes, detours, and a construction timeline.
- **Some open house attendees voiced concerns regarding the need for bicycle facilities** on Earl Street, with some suggesting they be excluded from the project.
- **There was community consensus regarding the need for dedicated parking near Maryland Avenue** to serve the local businesses in this area. Some attendees were concerned about the loss of residential parking elsewhere in the corridor.
- **Community members appreciated the project's commitment to minimizing the removal of healthy, mature trees.**
- **In-person attendees did not express a specific preference for either previously presented alternatives:** Option 1: Bike Lanes or Option 2: Off-Street Trail.
- **Many online comments focused on bicycle safety,** with some expressing a preference for an off-street bicycle facility.

The Selected Roadway Design

The bike lane design, "**Option 1**", was selected and presented at the event. **The 2024 Saint Paul Bike Plan prioritizes evenly spaced off-street trails.** Constructing an off-street trail on Earl Street would result in uneven spacing; **utilizing Forest Street will better accomplish this goal.** Tree preservation was identified as a top community value during the first four (4) open houses. The bike lane design **better protects the mature tree canopy** resulting in fewer than half as many mature tree removals, compared to the off-street trail design.