Buchtel Complete Street and Evans Intersection Improvements
University Neighborhoods Safer Streets Program
Virtual Public Meeting | Nov 3, 2021
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Meet The Project Team

Ashlee Grace
City and County of Denver
Co-Project Manager

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City and County of Denver
Co-Project Manager

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City and County of Denver
Community Engagement Specialist

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HDR Project Manager

Rick Plenge
VHB Project Manager

Alexa Muraida
HDR Senior Community Engagement Specialist
WELCOME

Buchtel Complete Street and Evans Intersection Improvements
University Neighborhoods Safer Streets Program
Virtual Public Meeting | Nov 3, 2021
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Overview

• Introductions & Purpose of Meeting – 10 minutes
• Project Background & Concepts – 20 minutes
• Next Steps – 5 minutes
• Q&A – 10 minutes
• Breakout Room Activity – 30 minutes
• Questions – 15 minutes
Purpose of Today’s Meeting
Buchtel Boulevard Complete Street and Evans Intersection Improvements

High comfort bicycle facility

Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

Lighting and Wayfinding

Intersection improvements

Multimodal improvements

Improved signage, lane markings, and operational improvements
University Neighborhoods
Safer Streets Program

Elevate Denver Bond

Buchtel Boulevard Complete Street and Evans Intersection Improvements

• Major intersection improvements:
  o University/Buchtel
  o University/Evans
  o Colorado/Buchtel
  o Colorado/Evans intersections

Sidewalk Projects

• University Park Neighborhood Gaps
  o Milwaukee
  o Saint Paul
  o Adams
  o Cook
  o Madison

Bike Projects

• Buchtel Boulevard Protected Bike Lanes
• Neighborhood Bikeway connecting University Hills Neighborhood to the Colorado Station Area

Signal Project

• Evans Avenue & Ash Street New Signal
University Neighborhood Safer Streets Program

Future Buchtel Protected Bike Lanes

Future Birch Neighborhood Bikeway

Future Traffic Signal at Evans and Ash

University of Denver

Buchtel Complete Street and Evans Intersection Improvements
Project Background & Concepts
Buchtel Complete Street and Evans Intersection Improvements

2017

1. UNIVERSITY STATION
   MULTI-STATION PLAN & MOBILITY STUDY
   COLORADO STATION
   + Next Steps Study

2017

2. ELEVATE DENVER
   YOUR VOICE.
   YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.
   YOUR CITY.

$8.4 MILLION
Multi-Station Plan & Mobility Study

University and Colorado light rail stations

STUDY PURPOSE Identify a cohesive strategy and key implementable actions that will increase local connectivity, access and mobility to each station, resulting in more vibrant people-friendly stations integral to the surrounding communities.

STUDY GOALS

1. Transform these stations from “backdoors” to central mobility hubs that are integral to the community.

2. Design a supporting transportation network that enables mobility options and changes in travel behavior.

3. Catalyze land use, inspire innovation and encourage place-making.
Community Outreach

Over 40 neighborhood and university meetings (Oct 2016 – Feb 2017) to better understand the needs and concerns around the stations and to inform the existing conditions analysis and needs assessment.

Two pop-up events (Oct 2017)
the team held “pop-up” events at the two stations to gather direct input from light rail and bus transit users.

Community Workshop (Jan 2017)
Over 100 people attended the workshop and participated in conversations with the project team.

Final Public Meeting (May 2017)
The project team provided a cohesive summary of the planning process and outcomes, as well as shared the recommendations of the study for review and input by the community.
Next Steps Study (2017)

The Next Steps Study provided more detail on select transportation projects identified in the University & Colorado Multi Station Plan & Mobility Study. Projects were selected from the Multi Station Plan & Mobility Study based on feasibility, community input, and potential funding opportunities.

- Initial project concepts were vetted during a public meeting in May 2017
- Final recommendations were presented to stakeholders in September 2017
Elevate Bond Project Statement (2017)

This project includes conversion of **Buchtel Boulevard from University to Colorado to be a more complete street and improvements to 4 intersections along University and Colorado Blvd.** This consists of protected bike lanes, bicycle and pedestrian crossings, enhanced lighting, wayfinding, and major intersection realignment/reconstruction. The project also includes Bicycle and pedestrian improvements to connect to the Colorado Station bicycle and pedestrian bridge, as identified on Denver Moves Bicycles.
## Design Approach

### PHASE I (WE ARE HERE)

**Concept Refinement & Preliminary Design for ALL Bond project elements**

Key considerations:
- Costs, property impacts, environmental impacts, community feedback

Outcomes:
- Determine which elements can advance immediately to Phase II – Final Design
- Inform **multi-year construction sequencing**

### PHASE II (2022-2023)

**Final Design for SELECT Bond project elements**

Which elements go to full design in the near term is based on:
- Outcomes of Phase I
- **Intent** of the Bond project + outreach
- **Funding** to construct

- Multi-year construction sequencing will inform future design/construction efforts for remaining project elements
Engagement Feedback Loop

1. PLANNING PHASE: 2017
2. ENGAGEMENT
3. BOND APPROVED: 2017
4. PROJECT SCOPING & DEVELOPMENT
5. DESIGN PHASE: 2021 WE ARE HERE
6. ENGAGEMENT & PRE-CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION
7. CONSTRUCTION: TBD
Concepts
Buchtel Complete Street

Streets for everyone
Buchtel Complete Street: University Intersection

Safety and Operations Improvements

- One thru lane removed on Buchtel, both left turns onto University remain.
- Added right turn lane allows signal phasing strategy that controls right turns to reduce auto/bike conflicts.
- Detached sidewalks maintained throughout design.
- Lanes at intersection throat reduced to one left turn and one thru/right.
- New raised median created.
- Removed channelized right turns on north and south approaches.
- Prairie Park Designated Park Land.

Red right turn arrow controls auto movement during green bike phase.
Buchtel Complete Street: Colorado Intersection

- Added bulbout reduces crossing distance
- One thru lane removed to accommodate cycle track
- Project includes signal phasing strategy that controls right turns and reduces auto/bike conflicts
- New raised median constructed
- Graphic shows cycle track continuing to I-25 bridge, as described in PROJECT O.
University & Evans

Safety and Operations Improvements – two options

- Identified conflict zone
- Right turn lane removed
- Pedestrian crossing distances shortened
- Added right turn lane allows signal phasing strategy to control right turns and reduces auto/ped conflicts
- Bulb outs shorten crossing distances for peds
- Current RTD bus operations unchanged
- Current landscaping and tree locations remain
Colorado & Evans

Safety and Operations Improvements

- New right turn lanes angled to allow increased viewing distance between vehicles and pedestrians
- New raised median constructed
- Raised table crossing slows traffic on channelized right turns
- Large pedestrian refuge islands created
Next Steps
Design Phase Project Timeline

- **AUG-SEP 2021**: INITIATED ANM 2021 DESIGN PHASE
- **AUG-SEP 2021**: MOBILITY ANALYSIS
- **SEP-NOV 2021**: UTILITY INVESTIGATION
- **NOV 2021**: PUBLIC MEETING #1
- **SEP-DEC 2021**: ENGINEER SURVEYING
- **NOV 2021**: DESIGN ALTERNATIVES & ASSESSMENT
- **NOV 2021-JAN 2022**: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
- **DEC 2021-APR 2022**: PRELIMINARY DRAINAGE ANALYSIS
- **DEC 2021-APR 2022**: PRELIMINARY DESIGN

**WE ARE HERE**
# Community Engagement

## Timeline

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*WE ARE HERE*
Public Questionnaire

Buchtel Complete Street and Evans Intersection Improvements
University Neighborhoods Safer Streets Program

Questionnaire closes on Monday, November 15
Breakout Room Activity
Questions?