

Frequently Asked Questions

Planning and Design

- 1) What is the Santa Fe Streetscape Project?
 - a. Based on extensive community support advocating to add this project to the Vibrant Denver Bond program, the Santa Fe Streetscape Project will rebuild Santa Fe Drive through the heart of the arts district from 6th Avenue to 13th Avenue. Planned improvements include wider sidewalks, trees and landscaping, lighting upgrades, green infrastructure, and public art, all delivered while maintaining access for nearby businesses. This project will improve the experience for people walking on Santa Fe, improve safety, maintain mobility and access for all modes, and will enhance the identity, history, and culture of the area.

- 2) Why is this project happening now?
 - a. This project is based on extensive community input and the result of long-standing community planning efforts, including a 2019 pilot project that tested lane reductions and expanded pedestrian space. The project is now moving forward to make the pilot project modifications (street striping and flex posts) permanent with curb, gutter, and new ADA compliant sidewalks because voters approved construction funding through the 2025 Vibrant Denver Bond.

Design & Impacts

- 3) Will the street layout change from what people see today?
 - a. The permanent streetscape largely reflects the layout introduced during the 2019 pilot project and is still in place today. The design builds on what already exists, with refinements based on safety standards, accessibility requirements, and community feedback.

- 4) Will parking or loading zones be removed?
 - a. Parking will function similarly to today's layout, which was established during the pilot.

- 5) How does this project improve safety and accessibility?
 - a. The project brings the corridor into compliance with modern standards by providing:
 - Continuous ADA accessible sidewalks (5 feet minimum, wider where possible)
 - Updated curb ramps
 - Improved lighting
 - Shorter, more visible pedestrian crossings

- 6) Why does the project require full reconstruction?
 - a. Large portions of the corridor do not meet current safety and accessibility standards. Achieving ADA compliant sidewalks requires coordinated changes to grades, drainage, and utilities, which cannot be accomplished through isolated repairs.

- 7) Will the project include green infrastructure?
 - a. Yes. The design includes trees, planters, and stormwater features that help manage runoff, reduce heat, and improve corridor comfort and appearance.

- 8) Will there be public art?
 - a. Yes. Public art is included as part of the streetscape and will follow established City and community processes.

- 9) Will the light poles be reconnected in a way that when one is impacted, all others on the block will still function?
 - a. Yes. Modern electrical design for streetlights uses a splicing process where each light operates regardless of what has happened to the lights surrounding it on the same circuits.

- 10) Was using solar streetlights considered?
 - a. Solar lighting comes with a few tradeoff that were considered by the design team – the significant negatives are increased maintenance costs, decreased service life, and increased upfront cost.

- 11) Will the gas meters remain on the front face of buildings along Santa Fe? Can they be relocated?
 - a. Yes, the meters will remain on the front face of the buildings along Santa Fe. Early coordination with Xcel Energy made it clear that relocating the meters

would require significant internal building modifications. While the design does not preclude future relocation; it was determined to be beyond the current scoped and funding available for this project.

- 12) How will the stormwater that runs across/below the sidewalk be handled?
- b. The project accounts for and includes removal and replacement for chase/underdrains that are impacted by project improvements.

Utilities & Infrastructure

- 13) What utilities will be affected?
- a. Utility work will include water, gas, electric, communications, and storm sewer upgrades or relocations, coordinated with utility providers. Sanitary sewer lines are not included because they are located outside the project corridor.

Construction

- 14) When will construction begin?
- a. Construction timing and phasing are currently being finalized. Once confirmed, the schedule will be shared publicly through this website and project communications.
- 15) How will construction affect businesses and events?
- a. Some impacts are unavoidable during full reconstruction. The City will work to maintain access where possible, provide advance notice of closures, and coordinate with businesses and event organizers, including First Friday, to reduce disruptions.
- 16) Will businesses always have access?
- a. Temporary access interruptions will occur for all properties at some point. This is required to complete reconstruction adjacent to doorways and access points along Santa Fe. These will be short and will be communicated in advance.
- 17) Will the City require the contractor to minimize disruption?

- a. The City has not yet selected a contractor, but the selected contractor will be required to develop and follow a mitigation plan focused on access, safety, and communication.

18) Can plans change during construction?

- a. Yes. As with large infrastructure projects, adjustments may be made if unanticipated conditions or significant issues arise.

Business Support & Monitoring

19) How will business impacts be monitored?

- a. The City will review aggregated, nonidentifying data, such as pedestrian activity trends, corridor-level economic indicators, and publicly available safety data to monitor general conditions during construction. These measures are intended to identify broad trends, not evaluate individual businesses.

20) How will business access and visibility be supported?

- a. The City is developing a corridor-specific mitigation approach to be shared as elements are finalized. Details may include:
 - Construction phasing updates
 - Access coordination
 - Wayfinding support
 - Ongoing monitoring

Communication

21) How will updates be shared?

- a. The construction communication approach will be refined once a contractor is selected. Updates will be provided through:
 - This project website
 - Coordination with community partners, including the Santa Fe BID, Arts District on Santa Fe, La Alma/Lincoln Park RNO, and Council District 3
 - Direct coordination and communication with properties

22) How can I stay informed?

- Visit this website regularly

- Connect with your community organization or representative

After Construction

23) Will maintenance costs or BID assessments increase?

- a. Maintenance responsibilities will be reviewed with the BID once final design details are confirmed.

24) Who is responsible for snow removal?

- a. Snow removal responsibilities will remain unchanged and are handled by adjacent property owners and/or the BID, consistent with City policy.