

Building a Better 82nd



82nd Avenue Critical Fixes Major Maintenance Project

60% Design Public Engagement Report

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Overview

This report outlines the Portland Bureau of Transportation's public involvement activities during the 60% design public comment period (January 29 to March 31, 2024) for the 82nd Avenue Critical Fixes: Major Maintenance Project, the largest of the near-term safety and maintenance improvements for the corridor.

Background

In recognition of the need for critical safety improvements for 82nd Avenue, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) established the Building a Better 82nd Avenue Program in 2022, following the transfer of roadway management from the Oregon Department of Transportation to the City of Portland.

Project Overview

As part of the Major Maintenance Project, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) will make urgent safety and maintenance improvements to 2.5 miles of NE 82nd Avenue from Fremont Street to Schuyler Street and SE 82nd Avenue from Mill Street to Foster Road. These improvements are part of an \$80 million investment funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Construction is scheduled from 2024 to 2026.

Public Involvement Goals

In 2024, the Major Maintenance Project reached a 60% design milestone, and the PBOT project team aimed to:

- **Continue to build awareness** of the project and project design elements
- **Communicate how feedback on the 30% design** was incorporated into the 60% design
- **Share the 60% design** for review and comment
- **Solicit additional feedback** from immediately affected residents, property and business owners, as well as the broader community
- **Refine design details** based on public input

2024 Public Involvement Overview

The project team engaged broadly with stakeholders and communities along the 82nd Avenue corridor, including community-based organizations, agency partners, school representatives, business managers and owners, property owners and community members. In total, the project team engaged over 3,900 people during these two months.

How did we gather input?

- 3 Opportunities to provide formal comments on the design**
- 1 Online Opportunity**
- 2 In-person Opportunities**
- 5 Languages (English, Chinese, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese)**
- 9 Community Meetings**
- 5 Tabling at 5 Community Events**
- 7 Email Updates to over 2,700 Subscribers**
- 2,000+ Doorhangers and Postcards mailed to businesses, property owners and residents**
- 3,900+ Total people engaged**

In-person and Virtual Comment Opportunities

Online Public Comment Form (January – March 2024)

As a part of the 60% design process, PBOT hosted an online public comment form between January 31 and March 31, 2024, to explain the proposed improvements at specific locations along 82nd Avenue. The concept designs were available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese, and the survey was available in English. 1,174 people submitted comments online.

We advertised the online public comment form via:

Press releases, project website, door hangers and postcards, at events and presentations.

What we heard from the online comment form

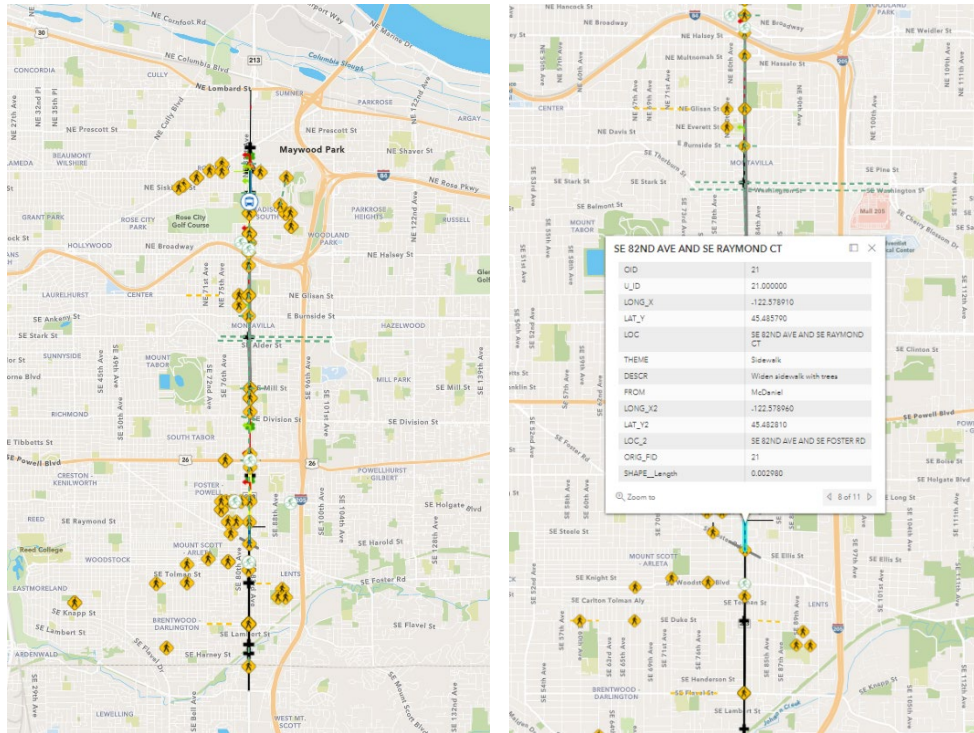
Overall, respondents supported the proposed designs. However, some expressed concern that the project was not doing enough to improve walking, biking, and rolling through the area and the designs were too vehicle-centered. Some felt it was not addressing safety and crime enforcement, while others said that the proposed medians and reduction of turn lanes would increase congestion and negatively impact small businesses.

Topic	Support	Concerns and Feedback
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for improved safety and accessibility for walking and rolling.• Excitement about widened sidewalks, more trees, better lighting and enhanced street crossings.• Support for designs to help slow car traffic.• Improvements may help address illegal activity taking place on the street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns about dangerous driver behaviors.• Concerns that crime and illegal activities in the area will continue and are more important than transportation.• The proposed design favors cars.• Not enough safety infrastructure for people walking, biking or rolling.• Lack of comprehensive plans for slowing traffic, ongoing maintenance of the road, new infrastructures, and adding trees.• Adding medians and limiting left turns will increase congestion which might lead to drivers using neighborhood streets.• Adding medians and limiting left turns could harm businesses.• The project should expand to the south of SE Foster Road and into nearby neighborhoods.

Topic	Support	Concerns and Feedback
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees will beautify the corridor and reduce heat island effects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about who will maintain the trees. Concerns about maintaining sightlines for drivers. Not enough green spaces.
Transit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the need for better bus service such as priority signaling and dedicated bus lanes, to make public transportation faster and more reliable.
Bikes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more protected bike lanes and safer crossing features, such as flashing crossing lights.
Streetscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support maintaining access to businesses during and after construction. Support the opportunity to revitalize and beautify the area through the improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to immediately repave and fix potholes. Concerns about project cost, lengthy construction timeline and potential access and noise issues during construction.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82nd Avenue is a historically neglected area, so this is an opportunity to better integrate the corridor into the greater Portland community and revitalize the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about gentrification and reduced access to small businesses. Additional outreach is needed to neighborhoods, cultural groups, and small businesses.

Comments by Location

Many of the open-ended comments from survey respondents pointed out specific locations of concern. PBOT mapped comments received from this survey, adding them to comments from collected from previous surveys and open houses.



Left: A screenshot of a map centered on NE/SE 82nd Avenue with lines and icons dotted along the corridor. The lines and icons represent location-specific comments received. Right: Example of the pop-up window, which shows additional information about the comment.

PBOT reviewed all location-specific comments, and where feasible, incorporated feedback into Major Maintenance designs.

Some feedback was not able to be incorporated or was unrelated to the Major Maintenance project. Building a Better 82nd Program will continue to review and consider this feedback as future projects are identified and designed.

Respondents stated that the following community destinations and schools (both within and outside of the project boundaries) need better connections and safer access:

- Businesses along 82nd Avenue
- Roseway Heights Middle School
- Holgate Library
- Vestal Elementary School
- Mt Scott Community Center
- Lents Park
- Harrison Park Middle School
- Montavilla
- McDaniel High School
- Mt Tabor

- MAX Station
- Rocky Butte
- Woodhill Park

Communications and Public Involvement

When asked how PBOT could improve response to community concerns in the future, reactions were mixed. Several ideas were presented about outreach methods that the team had already incorporated into our strategy, including advertising in local papers, emails, going door-to-door, open houses, events, and focus groups with local residents and businesses. Some commenters said that PBOT is doing a great job on outreach, while others thought that PBOT should not ask the public for feedback on safety projects. Others expressed that PBOT is not doing enough to get feedback from the community.

In-person Comment Opportunities (March 2024)

In March 2024, the project team hosted two events intended to share the 60% design concept and solicit public comments, share general project updates, and foster discussions with the community regarding future infrastructure improvements for 82nd Avenue. TriMet staff were present to share information and engage in discussion regarding future transit improvements for 82nd Avenue.

In total, 125 people attended.

Several displays provided an overview of the project and showcased what the improvements could look like and how the design concept had evolved since the last round of engagement in summer 2023. Large roll plots of the 60% design concept were also available for the attendees to visualize the planned improvements along 82nd Avenue. There was also a display showing potential species of trees being considered for the project.

Attendees were encouraged to share feedback through comment cards, flip charts, post-it notes or directly on the roll plots. Project team members were available to field any questions and explain the improvements in more detail.

PBOT staff working on other projects in nearby areas attended the meeting to share information and answer questions about their projects.

The in-person events were held in English (with Chinese/普通话, Spanish/Español, Vietnamese/Tiếng Việt, Russian/Русский, and American Sign Language/ASL translators at each event).

We advertised the events via:

Project website, project email updates and through the Community Engagement Liaisons (CELS/PKS) to reach non-English speaking communities. The project team also left door hangers advertising the event at over 1,000 residences in the neighborhood surrounding Marysville Elementary and mailed 1,000 postcards to residences surrounding McDaniel High School.

Engagement with specific cultural and language communities

Liaisons from Community Engagement Liaison Services (CELS/PKS) conducted additional outreach to Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese community members who live in or near the area, inviting them to the in-person events. Key themes and takeaways from the liaisons' engagement have been incorporated below. Overall, 49 people recruited by CELS/PKS attended either event.



A group of community members gather for a photo at an in-person public comment event.



A group of community members from the Spanish-speaking community speak with project staff at an in-person public comment event through a Community Engagement Liaison and interpreter.

What we heard from Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese community members

Liaisons asked specific questions of attendees during or after each event and heard the following themes and concerns:

- There was a desire for infrastructure and safety fixes, such as more street lighting, repaving and fixing potholes.
- There was a positive response to trees, greenery and beautification of 82nd Avenue.
- Many attendees were happy to see the design and felt 82nd Avenue needed these improvements.
- Several people had questions about what would happen to houseless people.
- Attendees mentioned inviting communities of color who have never had a voice in the projects being done by local government agencies.
- Consider additional safety features to help with accidents and speeding.
- Safe median islands to make it safer to walk along 82nd Avenue.
- Many expressed safety concerns along the entire route of 82nd Avenue, especially at the bus stops and in parks because of crime.
- People try to avoid potholes and this can cause accidents.
- Garbage is another concern, especially at bus stops or near camps along Fremont Street and 82nd Avenue.
- Some are worried about the inconvenience of having medians blocking businesses.
- Make sure trees on the median and sidewalks don't obstruct views, especially at corner turns.
- Concerns about road conditions during construction and how that may impact drivers and commutes.
- Concerns about how the project will be paid for and whether that will increase taxes.
- Some felt there were too many crosswalks, making the street narrower.
- There may be a need for more street parking with the new buildings being built.

Marysville Elementary School

Monday, March 4, 2024

Attendees: 40 people



Attendees at a public comment event at Marysville Elementary School gather around project maps and speak with the project team.

What we heard at the Marysville Elementary School Event

- Attendees expressed a desire to see more trees and more safety improvements to make crossings and sidewalks safer as well as more traffic calming measures including slower speed and mitigating illegal left turns.
- Some attendees asked for sidewalk improvements to be extended to community hot spots or popular destinations such as the Walgreens Pharmacy and library on 82nd Avenue.
- Several participants noted the school routes near and along 82nd Avenue and the importance of improving those routes to make it safer for school children.
- Many are in support of expanding FX bus service to 82nd Avenue and suggested that a dedicated bus lane would be beneficial.
- People were supportive of the green bike boxes along 82nd Avenue to improve safety. There were a couple of comments requesting bike access to be on 82nd Avenue or to have a bike crossing on 82nd Avenue.
- Safety and security need to be addressed, both related to traffic and crime.
- Cleanliness along 82nd Avenue, especially at bus stops and near camps.
- Concerns that narrowing the road and medians will lead to more traffic congestion.

McDaniel High School

March 13, 2024

Attendees: 85 people



Attendees at a public comment event at McDaniel High School gather around a long project map and add comments.

What we heard at the McDaniel High School Event

- There was overall enthusiasm about the design improvements, with many people saying they were long overdue and much needed.
- Attendees were excited about trees and the use of native plants.
 - One person mentioned partnering with local organizations to help with native species.
 - There were some concerns about maintenance, watering, and how trees would fare in the cold months.
 - Many people expressed maintaining sight lines for drivers.
- There were concerns about safety for pedestrians and traffic enforcement.
- One neighbor from the Madison South neighborhood delivered a petition with 200 signatures from neighbors asking for proposed turn restrictions at NE Milton to be removed from the design.
- Add more lighting and improved crosswalks for pedestrians and bike users throughout the corridor.
- Several people wanted devoted bus lanes and improvements to bus stops. This included better timing of crosswalks and fixing drainage issues at bus stops during the rainy season.
- Special considerations should be made to the crossings at McDaniel High School, such as lighting, rapid flashing beacons and bus stop improvements.
- One person felt the plan could go much further in prioritizing pedestrian safety.
- Several people had concerns about median islands and how they may impact turn lanes and businesses, and how narrowing lanes may impact traffic.
- Driveway consolidation would help with bus conflicts.
- Some people were concerned about how the project would be paid for and which areas were being prioritized.

Community Events

82nd Avenue Project team members participated in a total of five community events during this period, providing information, answering questions, tabling, and/or providing general event support.

Chinese New Year Cultural Fair (February 3, 2024)



Left: PBOT staff table at Chinese New Year Cultural Festival

Right: The event featured many incredible performances, including dragon and lion dancing.

The project team connected and celebrated with over 140 community members at the Chinese New Year Cultural Fair at the Convention Center. The team shared the 60% design concept map in multiple languages, including Chinese (simplified): 中文, and spoke with community members through translation services.

Bike and Walk to School Day (February 7, 2024)



Left: Families arrive at Marysville Elementary School, meeting PBOT staff at the entrance.

Right: PBOT staff share project information with parents (and stickers and other goodies with kids!)

The project team celebrated Walk & Roll to School Day at Marysville Elementary School, talking with 42 students and parents about updated designs for SE 82nd Avenue at the intersections of Raymond and Mitchell streets.

Black History Month Celebration (February 29, 2024)

The project team celebrated Black History Month with Marysville Elementary School families at an evening event. We spoke with 36 parents about updated designs for SE 82nd Avenue at the intersections of Raymond and Mitchell streets.



A PBOT staffer points out improvements on the Major Maintenance Project 60% draft concept map to a group of Marysville families.

Youth NW Expo (March 19, 2024)

PBOT joined over 200 exhibitors and employers at this event, which draws 6,000 students from 75+ high schools in Oregon and Southwest Washington. PBOT spoke with approximately 150 students at this event, shared information about career pathways and the Major Maintenance 60% draft concepts, and offered an opportunity to comment on the concepts in person.

Play Grow Learn Resource Fair & Scavenger Hunt (March 29, 2024)

Play Grow Learn is a youth organization dedicated to healthy opportunities for sheltered and underserved youth in the community to play, grow, and learn. PBOT tabled at this spring break event, shared the Major Maintenance 60% draft concepts, and offered an opportunity to comment on the concepts in person. PBOT spoke with approximately 20 people.



A PBOT staffer shows participants a map of improvements coming to 82nd Avenue.

Neighborhood Associations, Business Associations and Advisory Groups

82nd Avenue Major Maintenance Project team members presented to or attended eight (8) meetings.

- Virtual Madison South Neighborhood Association (February 1, 2024)
- In-person Mt. Scott Arletta Neighborhood Association (February 7, 2024)
- Virtual Foster Powell Neighborhood Association (February 12, 2024)
- Virtual Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association (February 27, 2024)
- In-person Montavilla Neighborhood Association (March 11, 2024)
- Virtual SE Uplift Association - Land Use and Transportation Committee (March 18, 2024)
- In-person South Tabor Neighborhood Association (March 21, 2024)
- Virtual 82nd Avenue Coalition (March 18, 2024)
- Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association – Email correspondence (Association inactive and could not accommodate a staff presentation)

Public Information Materials

60% Draft Concept Design (Published January 2024)

PBOT released a draft concept design to the public and solicited feedback. As part of the design process, PBOT staff engaged with property owners and residents along the corridor.

- [English](#)
- [Chinese \(simplified\): 中文](#)
- [Russian: Русский](#)
- [Spanish: Español](#)
- [Vietnamese: Tiếng Việt](#)

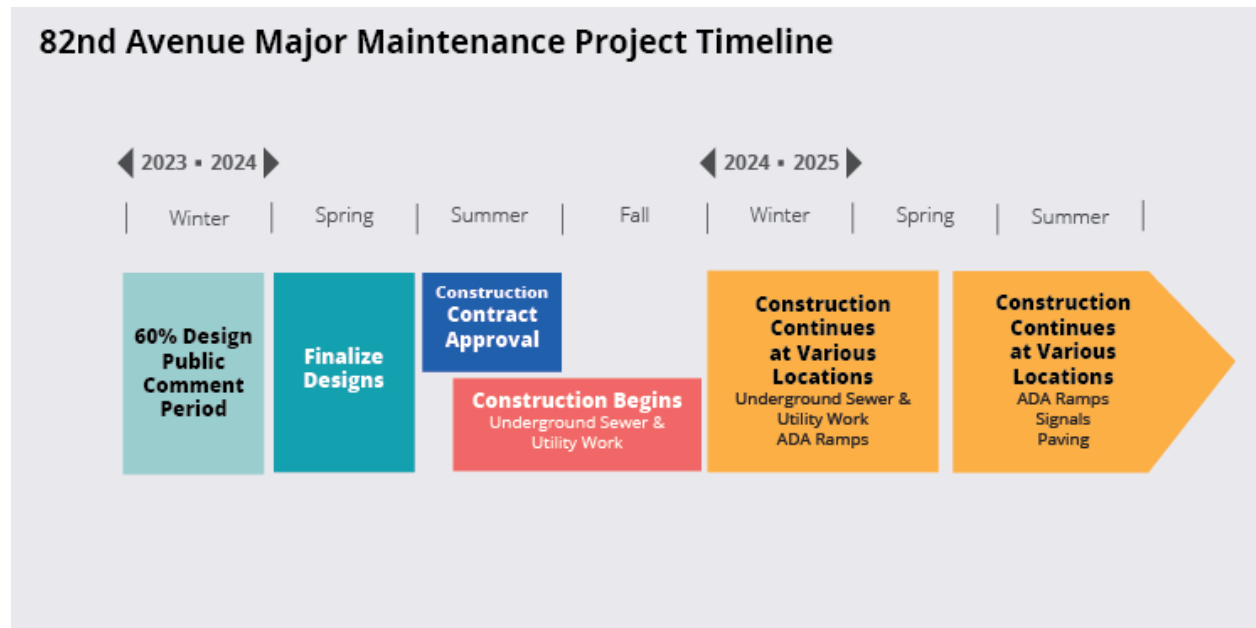
E-Newsletters

PBOT's 82nd Avenue team sent bi-monthly e-newsletters to subscribers with design and construction updates, community event opportunities, and opportunities to comment on 82nd Avenue projects and plans. In total, seven (7) e-newsletters were sent to our subscriber list of over 2,700 community members.

[View the e-newsletter archive online.](#)

What's Next

The Major Maintenance Project will begin construction in summer 2024. In the first six months of construction, the Major Maintenance Project will address underground stormwater and utility conflicts. In 2025 and 2026, Major Maintenance Project construction will take place in multiple phases and will include curb ramps, signal construction, paving and median island construction, and landscaping installation.



Learn More

To learn more about what's next for other Building a Better 82nd projects, visit: portland.gov/82nd-critical-fixes.

Contact the Building a Better 82nd Team

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