

# PROJECT #1: BIKE LANES ON H STREET



H Street serves as an important east/west corridor through Northeast Brainerd. This is where the streetcar used to run, an influence that is still perceptible in the layout and design of the adjacent properties. H Street connects the neighborhood with the commercial node on Mill Avenue and with Lowell School.

Today, H Street is excessively wide and, despite the designation as a bike route, is inhospitable to anyone not traveling in an automobile. The width of the travel lanes, the low volume of traffic and the absence of parked cars induce drivers to operate beyond neighborhood-speeds. This makes crossing the street by foot or on bike needlessly dangerous.

Surface markings on H Street have been neglected for many years. In most places they have faded to the point where they are imperceptible. This project constitutes routine maintenance to reestablish pavement markings only this time with a more neighborhood-friendly design.

## Immediate Objectives

1. Improve the safety for bikers operating on H Street.
2. Improve safety for pedestrians crossing H Street.
3. Reduce automobile speeds along H Street.

## Project Improvements

1. Reestablish parking lanes using white paint.
2. Establish bike lanes using white paint.

**Project Cost**  
**\$5,875**

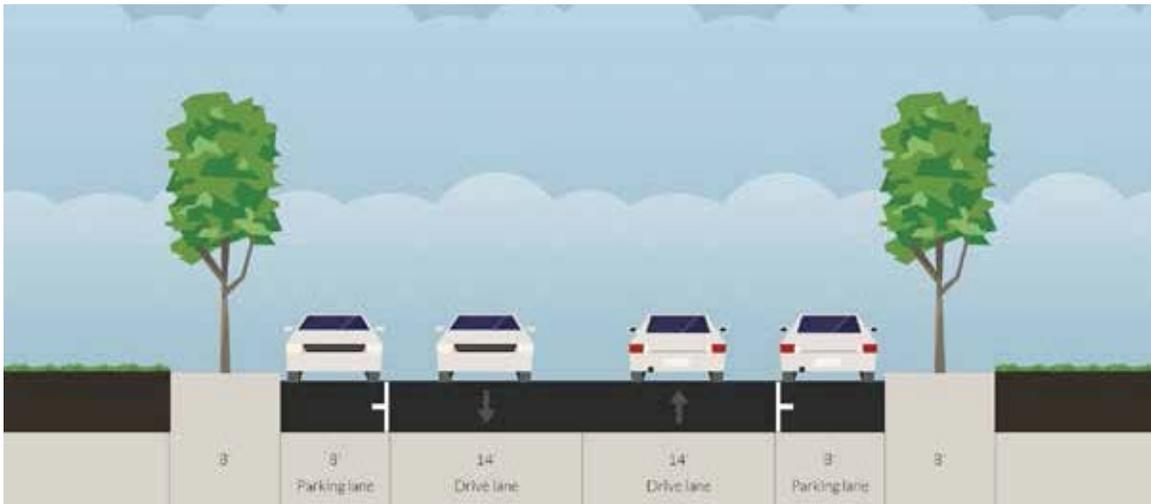
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The project makes a significant improvement to the neighborhood, at a nominal cost, by clarifying the acceptance of bikers within the public realm. It is okay to bike on H Street today, but lack of anything but a small sign fails to signal drivers for any anticipation of cyclists. This project makes it clear that bikers are welcome in Northeast Brainerd.

In addition, on-street parking is being dramatically underutilized. Brainerd taxpayers paid significantly to construct this space yet it goes largely unused. Parked cars provide additional safety and comfort for pedestrians using the sidewalks and help to further slow traffic. We need to make better use of this investment.

The existing 14-foot driving lanes are similar in dimension to those found on interstate highways. This gives drivers in a quiet, residential neighborhood a false sense of comfort and, in doing so, induces dangerously high speeds. Narrowing these lanes will improve, not impair, the safe flow of traffic at neighborhood speeds.

## Existing H Street (pavement markings absent)



## Improved H Street (with pavement markings)

