

PROJECT #5: PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR



C Street is an important east/west corridor for people trying to get to Cub Foods, the only grocery store within walking distance of the neighborhood, and other destinations in this commercial node. There are a lot of people walking and biking through this area out of necessity, even though there are no facilities for walking and biking.

After crossing 5th Avenue, walkers and bikers must proceed along a dangerous stretch of 4th Street NE. There are no pedestrian facilities at all and the driving lanes measure out to be an astonishing 19 feet wide. Speed through the area is so excessive that, once the street becomes private property, speed bumps have been installed.

To provide a minimum safe haven for pedestrians and bikers, this project devotes the northerly 8 feet of paved surface to pedestrians. A solid double stripe should begin at the crosswalk and run the length of the publicly owned property (which extends to the first curb cut on the north side of the street). This would reduce the driving lanes to 15 feet, which is still exceeds any possible motorized need by a wide margin.

Immediate Objectives

1. Improve the safety for bikers traveling 4th Street.
2. Improve safety for pedestrians traveling 4th Street.

Project

1. Establish a pedestrian safe haven on the north side of 4th Street west of 5th Avenue.

Project Cost
\$96

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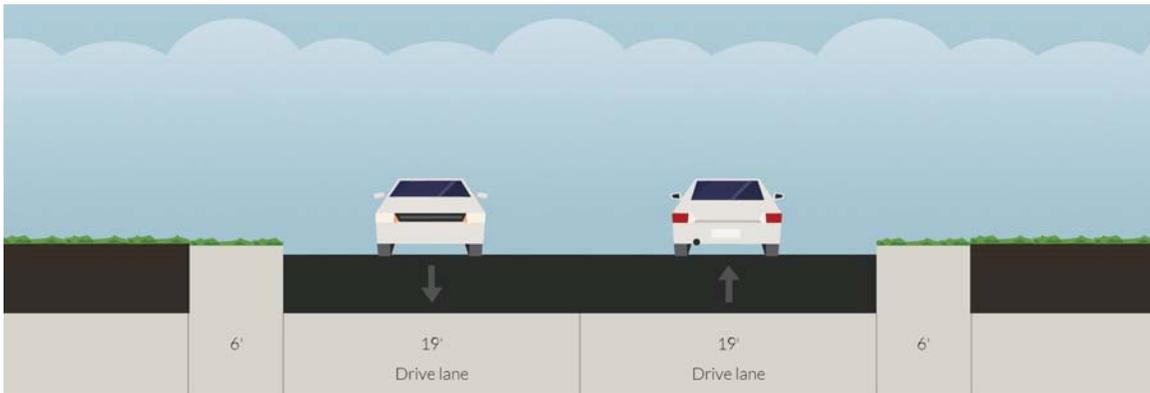
The Brainerd Mall is an important commercial destination for residents in Northeast Brainerd. Unfortunately, even though the neighborhood existed decades before the mall and the surrounding properties, nothing with the layout and design of the site concerns itself with the homes and the people that surround it.

The only safe and convenient way to travel to the site is by automobile. The drive through restaurants and strip mall built in recent years also have no safe pedestrian facilities. This is true despite the fact that there are thousands of customers living within walking distance, some literally right across the street.

Most tragically, the very design of the buildings has created a blight on the neighborhood. While the owners improve the facades and the signs that face the highway, towards the homes their buildings remain largely unadorned. Property owners who live next to the site are forced to look at dumpsters and have learned to live with security lights shining in their windows. This impacts property values and drives out investment.

Short term we can take steps to improve the functionality of the neighborhood for residents. Long term, we need to develop an approach that ensures everyone is, first and foremost, a good neighbor.

Existing C Street (pavement markings absent)



Improved C Street (with pavement markings)

