



Spruce Hill Community Association
257 South 45th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:30pm

Meeting Site for SHCA Board Members/Speakers ONLY: SHCA Center, 257 S 45th St

Virtual meeting site for all others:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9404207576?pwd=UEVRbU2clpuTkhjYitxQWhORzErdz09>

Attendance: Eric Santoro, Chris Bole, Evan Johnstone, Sylvia Hamerman- Brown, Tony West, Vicki McGarvey, Ann Thompson, Sugirtha Stathis, Monica Calkins, Barry Grossbach, Frank Chance, Terry Mond, Andrew Richman, Libby Rosof, Jenine Sanzari, Laura Line

Welcome and Introductions (Eric Santoro)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 2023)

Speakers

- **Jeanette Brugger**, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, Phila. Office of Transportation, Infrastructure and Sustainability (OTIS): repaving Walnut Street; **Vadim Fleysh**, chief engineer for the streets department for city of philadelphia; **Mark N. Washington**, Chief design engineer; **Jackie Weidman**, office of complete streets with OTIS, project planner for West and SW
 - **See slides (beginning p. 5)**
 - Walnut scheduled for repaving in 2023 between 33rd street and 63rd street
 - Project goals - slide
 - Project steps to date - slide
 - Crash history a big issue – especially the serious injury crash and fatal crash history - slides
 - Vision Zero – a policy that states clearly that traffic deaths are preventable and unacceptable. See core principles. Speed is a fundamental predictor of fatality – slowing down saves lives. They want to control safety by controlling speed.
 - Walnut street layout. Where a left turn is deemed necessary, there will be a left turn lane. It will be a lot more like chestnut street. For people walking, it will shorten the distance for pedestrians to cross the street. People driving will have to travel in a more controlled manner.
 - So, designated space for all groups. Layout impacts traffic safety – on Chestnut street, there is a drastic change in crashes where they did this layout (reduction) – see slides.
 - Public Engagement
 - Did a lot, more than ever before
 - Public engagement for last 2 years
 - Sent paper surveys, also advertised online survey in. More than 1700 survey responses. 69% of all respondents reported living in the target neighborhood. Survey results – 2 out of 5 stars to keep it how it is; 4 for make that change
 - Knock on the door – 50th Street to 63rd - more than half in support, few against, many were neutral; businesses also – see quotes

- Supported by local politicians
- People park all the way up to the crosswalk – there will be less day time parking, but its for the safety of the corridor.
- Eric – questions about impacting businesses. 17 new loading zones for chestnut street. Push back around. They will get people loading zones.
- Ignacio – lives within half a block. Lives near mosque on 43rd street. Talked to them? Reaching out pretty consistently. Working with them directly. Committed to doing a parking and loading plan with them before anything else. Had a similar situation with a church on Chestnut street and can keep posted on that
- Monica – left hand turns from small one way streets onto Walnut (like from Melville St). Some impact for the visibility for the driver making the left– but one or two parking spots will be taken up, in the end should not be impact on visibility
- SHCA would need a letter as we previously provided for Chestnut Street.

Committee Updates

- **Executive Committee (Eric Santoro)** – Eric – for the zoom meetings. Get wifi – will always be hybrid option. Chris looked into the costs for computer, projector and screen, about \$87, one off purchases, recommends Verizon. Can be less if we buy modem/router. But Chris doesn't know how to do this. Andrew – don't need the highest. Has a comcast one that he doesn't use anymore, can donate. What if it gets stolen? Eric made a motion for exec to make a decision. Approved.
- **Zoning (Barry Grossbach)** –
 - Up to date on the SJU situation. Committee of immediate neighbors. Used by USciences for classroom space. Discussed with councilwomans office. Opted to put us in charge, and join our effort. Had a communication with the interim president, told her we wanted to meet. Councilwoman was there, Andrew Goodman was there. Attorney from SJU. Asked to enter into a re-zoning process with us. Zoning of properties is currently all over the place (in terms of their categories). If could control what would happen with zoning, would have more say in what happens to the properties. Along with city planning. If city planning was unwilling to plan this, SJU to hire a planner. They agreed. We have a deal. Now going through a process to make sure that what we want them to do and what they are going to do are aligned. SJU is looking for a facilitator. Agreed that no bids would be accepted until the rezoning process is complete. Not a master plan for the process. Will have some impact. Bids for purchase for any portion of this property are due tomorrow. Don't know yet if there will be any bids. Performing arts charter school – String Theory School – possible interest. Bids will be held confidentially. Some educational institutions looking at the sight. Dealing with moving targets. Accepting bids for any of the properties. Dealing with a lot of acreage. There are no streets or roads on this site. Would have to be created. Can't do it now because the way the campus is constructed. Nothing is off limits. SJU made it clear – want to keep the western edge of the campus with the newer buildings, because they want to keep their health sciences here at least for 5 years. However, if they got a bid to sell everything, they would and see if they could get rent back what they need. Have cancelled some PhD programs. They are cutting back. Q – is there a chance that we could help – express that there are certain things we would like to see – like a YMCA? We were hoping to have that influence, initially didn't realize that they had February 8th date for bidding. Whole idea of a master plan was to see what could be developed on the site. Agreed not to accept a bid until this process is over, assuming it is over within 6 months. Important to understand that we have at least gotten them to the table. Hoping that we can get some feedback about the kinds of bids they are getting. Frank – is the Clark Park section and Rosenberger hall included in the bids? Barry says yes. If the community wants to use any of the rooms, we can do so (if our insurance doesn't cover, they will supplement).
 - 40th and Market – 10 occupied apartments left, and there's work being done by Penn and Drexel to find accommodations. Deadline to move out is February 28th. Some people are not willing to move. Sheriffs office will need to evict them. In the meanwhile, a number of apartments have apparently been occupied by gangs with drugs and guns. Gunfire. One person killed in a store over the weekend. Businesses want to move out. City police and penn police working with UCD on this. Not enough resources. Lawsuit in federal court. City's responsibility? Buildings are not protected – gangs have taken them over. Bringing to board because in our neighborhood – longstanding history with this particular site. Ask for meeting with

the City Managing Director. E-mail plus call. Keep calling. Need a letter from the President – Barry will help. Executive committee with everyone’s name on it. What about contacts at the Inky? Barry has one, can see if he can write something about it. We have to let city know this is not acceptable. Eric is going to the penn public safety board meeting. DP just wrote an article about the shooting at the store– could be a springboard.

- **Historical Preservation Committee (Jenine Sanzari)** – can we move forward with contracting for the Historic Distric nomination. Team – separately have the payments have to come through the trust. Can we contract from a Spruce Hill Community Association perspective. If the board votes to approve the contract then Eric will sign it. Jenine will get a vote. Barry – thinks that money raised for historic preservation line should come through the SHCT. Richard will write the check to the board. Jenine updated the FAQ, also looking to update the landing page of the SHCA website. Question for volunteers – a committee to help fundraise – recommend or volunteer to start around this. Vicki – anything can help with as far as community engagement. Monica – leverage May Fair infrastructure and outreach that we already do. Somebody has to help organize that. Barry – we will get the money, but it is very important that people understand what we are doing – have to make sure that people are aware. Some of the professionals who have gotten nominations through. UCHS – would be important.
- **Spruce Hill Trust (Barry Grossbach)** – bylaws require that come before the board. Board has to approve officers for the trust and their members. Michele remaining as treasurer, steve mcoubrey is the secretary, sylvia is the VP. Barry is the president. Add jenine to the trust board. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimous.
- **Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors (Evan Johnstone & Eric Santoro)**
 - Discussed the proposal for Walnut Street (from above)– motion to write letter of support, motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.
 - Non-permitted vendors in Clark Park (Tony West) – started with COVID. Now become an institution. May have as many as 50 people occupying south part of A park. Become a commercial corridor. Most people in FOCP, more damage, litter, detract from legitimate vendors. Thinks that Parks and Recs needs to be able to install order over the process. Haven’t done it so far for several reasons. FOCP can take action. Lawful permitted vendors are injured, have reached out to the councilwoman. She knows about the issue. Concerted outreach. Would be easier for to move them out if there is an alternative venue to move them to. PPR is hiring a p/t seasonal agent to manage relations in the park. There may be an emergence of a team. Bringing this up now because the time to plan concerted action is now. Recommend that many people start to do things. Coordinated letters. Can Barry help with knowledge of UCD – connection there. Good at being creative. Know West Philly commercial space. Encourage many to sign up for Uhuru – their vendors are saying, why should we pay for this (Uhuru) if we can do this for free now. West Willy facebook group discusses this issue re: gentrification– For Uhuru to be in front is a good idea. Perhaps could help people obtain vendor licenses, given not fair to the people who have the licenses. Could draft a letter of very generic support looking for solutions before the spring season begins. Anything that Spruce Hill does should be done in response to FOCP or Uhuru proposal. We should not take the lead on this. Respond to the groups that most directly support. Equitable and transparency. How does anyone determine who gets permits? It is complex. There is no one single package – inherently complicated. No one agency can be expected to take care of all them. Some can join the food trucks, others cannot. Authority rests with public agencies. Final decision – will see what Uhuru and FOCP send us, then decide about how to respond.
 - Penn Student move-out (Vicki McGarvey) – met with Scott Felkin (sp?) and Anita Morris, new office at penn. Looking for ways to help partner with the community. What locations are annual hotspots that they can put dumpsters, depending on the year. Equity and waste and re-distributing waste, talked about setting up spots to ask students to bring stuff. Pilot with some pods with all the caveats of setting pods out. Other ideas to help students to get their things to a place where they can be re-used. Curb alerts or free your stuff. Separate piles – this is good stuff v. this is trash. Let Vicki know if you are interested in working on this. Laura is interested.
 - Eric – business survey – updated – check it out. Eric will email it around.
- **Operations (Chris Bole)** – everything running smooth
- **May Fair (Monica Calkins & Evan Johnstone)** – Start planning NOW! Evan will check with Leslie on permits. Monica will get a meeting invite out. ALL: sign up here for pre-fair planning. We need all hands on deck. People who did tasks last year are pencilled in for this year – need to go to googledoc and see if you can or cannot do the tasks you are assigned. Others are needed to fill in slots.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1blkv39NSt5Ci7WR_6jpRUN168ZPGmaMDlpNbtqYW6ts/edit?usp=sharing

- **Community Engagement (Vicki McGarvey/Alexa Bosse)** – nothing to report
- **Education** (Becca Geller-Puchalsky)
- **Spruce Up Committee (Laura Line)** - Philly Spring Cleanup, April 1st 9am to 2pm.
- **Crosstown Coalition (Eric Santoro)** – safe injection sites was a topic. RCO renewals are up to date. Issue if by-laws don't match boundaries. Have we changed our boundaries up to date.

All Other Business

- The Master Plan meeting that had been scheduled for 1/25 was cancelled as they are waiting for approval from the City (?).

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Agenda

1. Project Overview & Goals
2. Traffic Safety & Walnut Street
3. Planned Layout
4. Engagement Summary
5. Next Steps

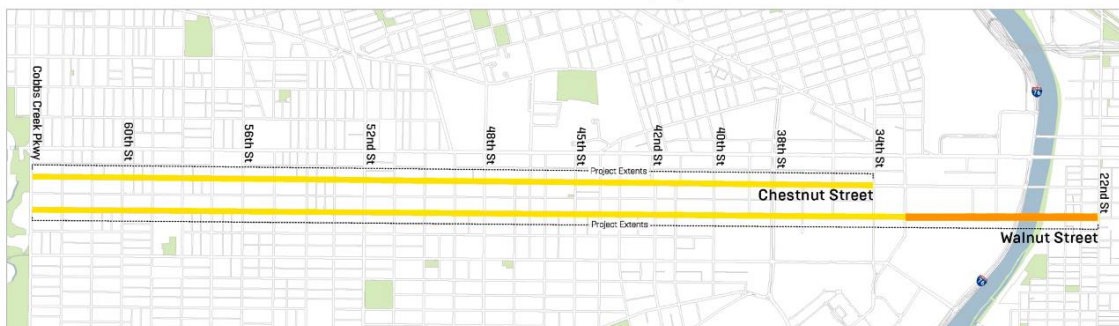


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Where will the project happen?

Walnut Street is scheduled for repaving in 2023 between 33rd Street and 63rd Street/Cobbs Creek Parkway.

The section from 22nd – 33rd Streets will be done in a later project.





Project Goals: Improve Walnut Street For All Users

- Repave to create a smoother street
- Calm traffic by decreasing weaving, speeding, and aggressive driving
- Create safer and shorter pedestrian crossings
- Maintain space for neighborhood loading and drop-offs
- Reduce illegal parking, such as double parking
- Increase safety for people bicycling by separating them from moving traffic
- Preserve space for trucks and buses to turn
- Design travel lanes that match the changing corridor



Project Steps to Date

Information Sharing

- On-line & In-person Civic Meetings (April – October 2022)
- Door to door flyering in residential areas (June/July 2021)
- Posters along the corridor (June/July 2021, Summer 2022)
- Stakeholder group meetings (Fall 2022 – Winter 2023)

Traffic Analyses

- Chestnut & Walnut full-corridor traffic analysis (2020, 2021)

Public Input

- Public open houses (June, July 2021)
- Corner meetings (July, September, October 2021)
- On-line public survey (Summer & Fall 2021)
- In-paper survey mailing to addresses along the corridor (June 2021)
- Community Events & In-Person Outreach (Summer/Fall 2021, Fall 2022)
- Door-knocking along Chestnut Street (September & October 2021)
- Door-knocking & focused outreach along Walnut Street (Winter 2022/2023)

Parking & Loading Survey

- Business loading survey (ongoing)



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Traffic Safety & Walnut Street



70 people walking were hit by motor vehicles on Walnut Street between 2017 and 2021.

Almost **20%** of crashes involved the most vulnerable users, people walking and biking.

Crash History (2017 - 2021)*

There were **375 crashes** on Walnut Street along between 2017 and 2021 and **345 people were injured**. **45%** of crashes on Walnut Street were due to **Aggressive Driving**.

Crashes **killed three (3) people**. There were **16 serious injuries**.

*Crash analysis for Walnut Street from Cobbs Creek Parkway to 22nd Street



Traffic Safety & Walnut Street

VISION ZERO

A policy that states clearly that traffic deaths are preventable and unacceptable.

CORE PRINCIPLES

- Human life takes priority over mobility;
- Human error is inevitable and unpredictable;
- People are inherently vulnerable and speed is a fundamental predictor of crash survival;
- Safe design behaviors, education, and enforcement are essential contributors to a safe system.





Traffic Safety & Walnut Street



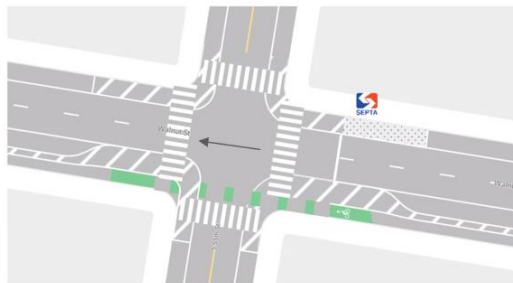
Walnut Street Layout

TODAY (22ND-63RD)



- 2 driving lanes
- Long turn lane at every intersection w left turn
- Parking on each side

PLANNED (33RD - 63rd)



- 2 driving lanes
- Shorter left turn lanes (as needed)
- Painted bump outs
- Parking on each side
- Parking separated bike lane

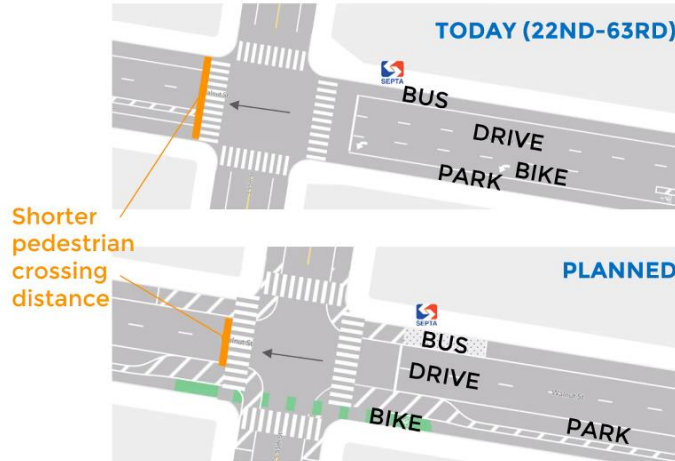




Traffic Safety & Walnut Street

People Walking:

- Shorten distance for pedestrians to cross the street



Traffic Safety & Walnut Street

People Walking:

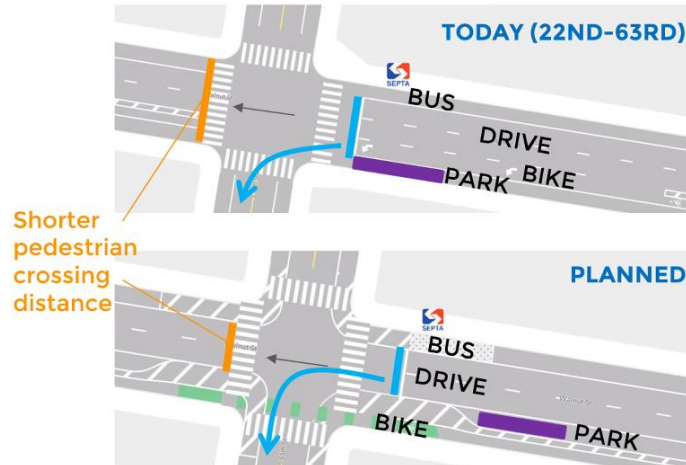
- Shorten distance for pedestrians to cross the street

People Driving:

- Drivers will travel in a more controlled manner along, turning off of, and across Walnut

People Parking/Loading:

- Drivers will park between the bike lane and the vehicle travel lane
- Include 2 daytime loading spots per block for resident & package truck loading needs



Traffic Safety & Walnut Street

People Walking:

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People Driving:

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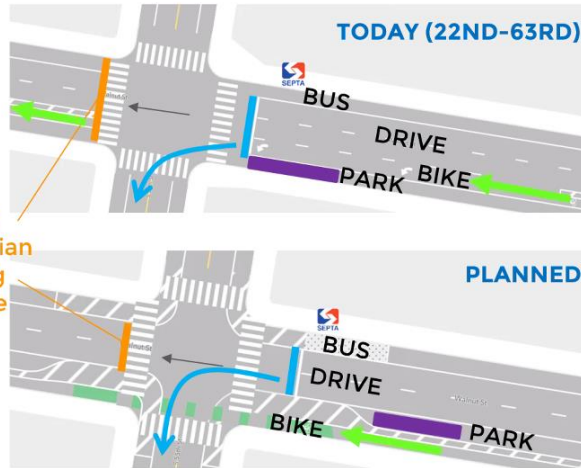
People Parking/Loading:

- Drivers will park between the bike lane and the vehicle travel lane
- Include 2 daytime loading spots per block for resident & package truck loading needs

People Biking:

- Bike lanes will be separate from moving vehicle lanes

Shorter pedestrian crossing distance



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Traffic Safety & Walnut Street

Designated Space for all Groups

When every user group has a space, movement on the street is more predictable.

Layout Impacts Traffic Safety

- Chestnut Street, 63rd – 45th Streets 2018 – 2020 : crash rate of **27.4 crashes per mile per year**
- Chestnut Street, 45th – 34th Street 2018 - 2020: crash rate of **18.7 crashes per mile per year**

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Traffic Safety & Walnut Street

Before & After Chestnut Street (34 – 45th) crash comparison

- 12% fewer total crashes
- 40% fewer injuries
- 43% fewer drivers traveling above the speed limit
- 29.5% reduction in average recorded driver speed



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Chestnut Street example



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Chestnut Street example



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Project Engagement & Results

Information Sharing

- On-line & In-person Civic Meetings (April – October 2022)
- Door to door flyering in residential areas (June/July 2021)
- Posters along the corridor (June/July 2021, Summer 2022)
- Door Knocking & Posters on the corridor Dec 2022/Jan 2023

Public Input

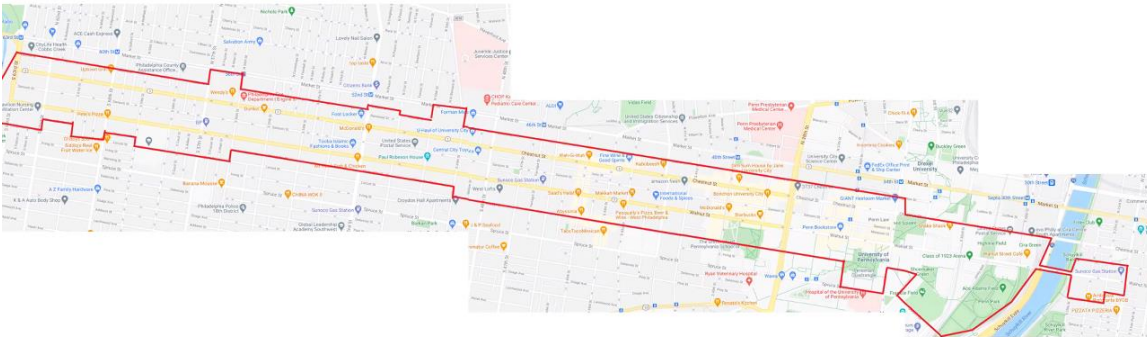
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- Community Events & In-Person Outreach (Summer/Fall 2021, Fall 2022)
- Door-knocking along Chestnut Street (September & October 2021)
- RCO group meetings (Fall 2022 – Fall 2023)
- Block meetings on 5300, 5400, 5800 Walnut Fall 2021
- RCO meeting presentations Sept/Oct 2022
- Police District 18 Captain's Meeting Nov 2022
- Concerned Block Captains of W and SW Phila Nov 2022
- West Philadelphia United Neighbors (RCO)
- Sayre High School Nov 2022
- West Philadelphia United Neighbors Holiday Party Dec 2022
- Institution/property owner outreach: Mosques, Penn, Elderly Home Winter 2022/23
- Door Knocking & Focused Outreach: 50th – 63rd Streets

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Print Survey Outreach & Correspondence

3492 Surveys Mailed to near neighbors along the 6-mile corridor in 2021



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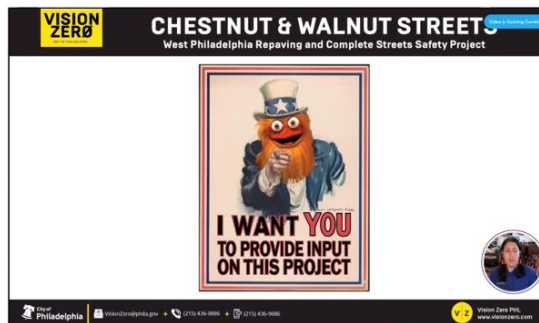


Explanatory Videos

OTIS recorded a series of short videos explaining the project, its goals, and each design option.

3 short videos:

- Project Overview (3 min)
- Existing Conditions (5 min)
- Future Options (7 min)



1,147 combined views, with an average of **382 unique views per video**.

All three videos can still be viewed online at: <https://bit.ly/cwphl-videos>


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Public Survey Responses

 **1,763** total survey responses in 2021

 **1,569** online survey responses (89% of total)

 **194** paper survey responses (11% of total)

 **69%** of all respondents report living in a target neighborhood

 **top 5** neighborhoods were target neighborhoods



Three Words for Chestnut & Walnut Streets

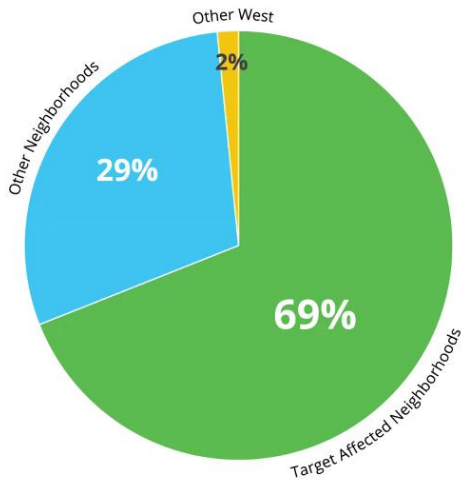
Public Survey Respondents said the streets were:

- Busy
- Dangerous
- Fast
- Traffic
- Speeding
- Cars
- Unsafe
- Congested

stressful central trees timed speedway hilly Busy crowded mess congestion travel
 highway hot trash restaurants driving better pedestrians convenient lanes
 long Wide fast people aggressive important biking Home bumpy
 unpredictable loud essential fast dangerous busy loud streets
 vital construction arterial chaotic corridors wide Stopped
 potholes aggressive drivers congested big cars road
 traffic Chestnut dangerous safe Busy confusing
 fast commercial speeding direct unsafe litter
 bike lanes Penn Crowded University scary major
 shopping bustling dirty narrow double parking students
 parking danger drivers accidents double-parking parked cars
 fast cars weaving buses Main artery vehicles many cars going
 one-way Reckless hectic noisy thoroughfare chaos businesses beautiful
 Potential food crazy lights Need unfriendly slow many



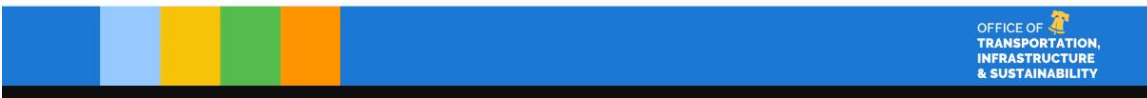
Survey Responses by Geography



91% of people who completed the survey provided their neighborhood.

69% of people who provided a neighborhood self-identified as **members of one of the target affected neighborhoods, where Chestnut and Walnut are within or near the neighborhood.**

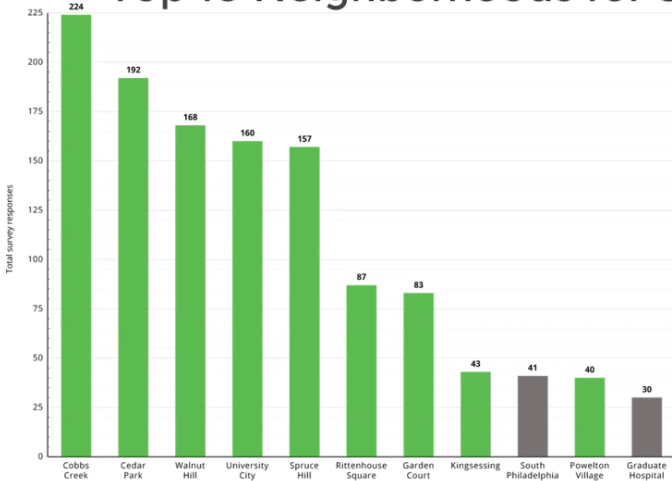
2% of people who provided a neighborhood self-identified as a resident of a different neighborhood in West Philadelphia or just wrote "West Philadelphia."



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Top 10 Neighborhoods for Survey Responses



Looking at neighborhoods by number of responses, **eight (8) of the top ten (10) are target neighborhoods** along Chestnut and Walnut Streets.

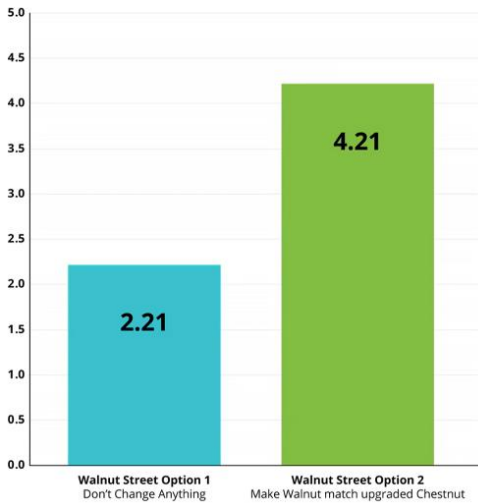
Target neighborhoods include Cedar Park, Cobbs Creek, Garden Court, Haddington, Kingsessing, Mantua, Mill Creek, Overbrook, Powelton Village, Rittenhouse, Spruce Hill, University City, and Walnut Hill.

People who took the survey self-reported **78 unique neighborhoods, including areas outside the City**, like Upper Darby and Merion.



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Survey Results: Walnut Street Options



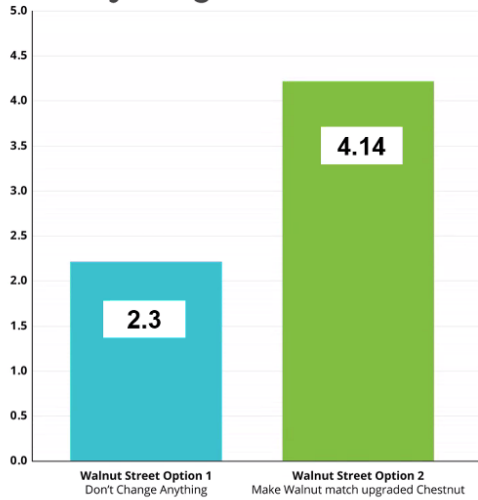
The chart at left shows the overall ratings for each of the two (2) Walnut Street options:

- **Option 1: Existing Layout** received an overall rating of **2.21** out of 5 stars.
- **Option 2: Parking Protected Layout** received an overall rating of **4.21** out of 5 stars.

Note: Online surveys required a rating for each option, but paper surveys were sometimes returned without a rating for one or more options. Average ratings account only for surveys with a rating for a given option. 91.8% of all respondents gave for Option 1, and 91.7% of all respondents provided a rating for Option 2.

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Survey Results: Walnut Street Options Nearby Neighbors



The chart at left shows the overall ratings for each of the two (2) Walnut Street options for Neighborhood respondents only.

- **Option 1: Existing Layout** received an overall rating of **2.3** out of 5 stars.
- **Option 2: Parking Protected Layout** received an overall rating of **4.14** out of 5 stars.

Respondents:

- Cobbs Creek: 212
- Cedar Park: 192
- Garden Court: 83
- Spruce Hill: 155
- Walnut Hill: 165

Note: Online surveys required a rating for each option, but paper surveys were sometimes returned without a rating for one or more options. Average ratings account only for surveys with a rating for a given option. 91.8% of all respondents gave for Option 1, and 91.7% of all respondents provided a rating for Option 2.

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Door Knocking Results

OTIS staff spent 3 afternoons on the corridor in December & January.

158 in-person conversations/flyer hand-offs

90 people (57%) were in support

17 people (11%) were not in support

51 people (32%) were neutral

