

S. Academy Boulevard Reconstruction Project

Frequently Asked Questions

November 17 2020

Transit Station

Q. Can the future Mountain Metro Station be placed at the Southeast corner of Academy Boulevard and Hancock Expressway (where the trail is being placed)?

A. The Hancock / Academy PEL study identifies the area for a Future Metro Transit station on the southwest corner of Academy and Hancock. The proposed transit station is not funded at this point in time. In order to move the transit station to the southeast corner, the overhead electric transmission lines need to be moved underground. Undergrounding these transmission lines would add significant expense to the project, but we are evaluating the possibility of adding this design to the scope of the project.

Drainage

Q. Will the drainage work for the project require any holding ponds?

A. We are currently designing a “flow-based” system for improving stormwater quality, rather than detention ponds, and will meet the City’s current Drainage Criteria requirements. As the stormwater runs off from the road, it will be collected by inlets, move through the storm sewer system and then travel to a special manhole called a hydrodynamic separator. Here, the water will be separated from debris, dirt, and other particles. The cleaned-up stormwater then will continue down the system to the nearest outfall, and the debris in the manhole is removed by Operations and Maintenance crews.

Pedestrian / Bicycles

Q. Will you install sidewalk on both sides of the road?

A. The current design includes a 10 ft. wide (concrete) Shared-Use Trail on the East side of Academy Boulevard. Existing City Right-of-Way may require the trail to narrow to 8-ft wide in certain areas. The West side of the corridor has missing sidewalk, and the project will fill in those gaps, and create a continuous path with new 4-6 ft wide sidewalk.

The design will also create new connection points to the Sand Creek Trail and other bicycle facilities that are identified in the Bike Master Plan.

Q. Are there any plans for trail connectivity connections to the Sand Creek Trail along the Hancock Expressway corridor?

A. The City has recently received grant funding to design a new path that will connect Sand Creek trail to Academy Blvd, on the north side of Hancock Expressway. Look for updates on this design in 2022. This will be a separate project.

Q. Some sections of the Academy Boulevard improvements are more than 1,000 ft. without a pedestrian crossing. Is this safe?

A. Academy Boulevard is a Principal Arterial with the primary purpose of efficiently moving vehicle and truck traffic. Additional signalized crossings to accommodate pedestrians would not be compatible with the purpose of Academy Boulevard. However, as part of the design process, we will be looking to implement more curb ramps and lighting at intersections in order to improve pedestrian visibility at signalized intersections.

Traffic Impacts

Q. *When can the traveling public anticipate traffic impacts? Will this be during the day or night?*

A. We are currently in the beginning stages of design (60% plans). Once plans are developed to 100%, and a contractor is selected, a traffic control plan will be developed and reviewed for safety. We will keep the public informed of any traffic impacts through our website, media communications and social media. There may be intermittent intersection closures as we cross the intersections for utility installation and paving.