

Columbia Road Community Walks

Overview

From May to June 2024, the Columbia Road Transportation Action Plan project team hosted four community walks along Columbia Road to gather insights from neighborhood members. These walks aimed to inform the Phase 2 Early Action Project by identifying which intersections should be prioritized for safety improvements and beautification based on community feedback.

Dates and Locations

- **Segment #1 Walk:** May 26, 2024, 1 PM, Blue Hill Avenue to Quincy Street
- **Segment #2 Walk:** June 1, 2024, 1 PM, Quincy Street to Edward Everett Square
- **Segment #3 Walk:** June 16, 2024, 1 PM, Edward Everett Square to Kosciuszko Circle
- **Virtual Walk:** June 26, 2024, 6 PM, via Zoom, covered the entire corridor

Goals

The primary goal of these community walks was to identify intersections that should be included in the Early Action project. The team focused on intersections that were of the highest priority to residents for safety improvements and beautification efforts.



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In-Person Walks

During each in-person walk, participants gathered on Columbia Road and were led by a LivableStreets staff member. The group walked through the planned segment, covering 4-5 intersections, and paused at each one to complete a Community Walk survey. The survey asked participants to rate various elements on a scale of 1 to 5:

- Safety
- Pedestrian signal timing
- Width of the crossing
- Curb conditions
- Visibility of signage
- Crosswalk painting conditions
- Presence of shade and greenery

Additionally, the survey included an art scouting activity, allowing community members to indicate locations along the corridor where they would like to see art installations.

Virtual Walk

The virtual walk began with the project team sharing a video of each segment. This was followed by the art scouting activity, where participants could comment on preferred locations for art installations. Each participant then had time to fill out questions about the intersections in that segment before moving on to the next one as a group.

Takeaways

The Columbia Road Community Walks were a crucial part of engaging with the neighborhood and understanding their concerns and desires for the future of Columbia Road. These walks provided invaluable feedback on which intersections along Columbia Road are most in need of safety improvements and beautification. We received a total of **30 completed surveys**, and by incorporating the community's feedback from the Community Walk surveys and art scouting activities, the project team can ensure that the Phase 2 Early Action Project effectively addresses the most pressing issues and enhances the corridor for all residents, reflecting the priorities and needs of the community.



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