

Bike Boulevards - Questions and Answers

Because bike boulevards are relatively new, the following questions and answers have been prepared.

What is a Bike Boulevard?

A bike boulevard is an on-street bikeway system that encourages bicycle use while sharing the street with residents in cars. Some view them as a "trail" on the street, safe for inexperienced bicyclists and other children. They are more common in older neighborhoods where a separate trail system is not feasible.

What is the purpose?

The purpose of a bike boulevard is to separate vehicle and bicycle traffic from each other as much as possible. This is done by placing thru vehicle traffic to a parallel busy road (in this case, Garth and West Boulevard) and drawing bicycle traffic way from the busy roads to quiet residential streets. the intent is to provide a safe bicycle connection to trails, schools, businesses, etc.

What is done to the street?

Depending on the location, several treatments may be used. The most common is striping, marking, and signage. Often for safety and visibility, parking is restricted to one side of the street. Speed tables can be added to slow down cars and discourage "cut through" traffic. In some cases, cut-through traffic is prevented by a physical barrier at some point along the street (in this case, possibly Sexton and Madison). Major intersections are modified to provide a safe way for bicyclists to cross. If a street is in need of repair, it will be resurfaced prior to striping for a bike boulevard.

What are the benefits?

See the following results from surveys of neighborhoods on the implemented Windsor-Ash Boulevard near Stephens College. Neighborhoods tend to like them because it reduces cut-through traffic and "calms" the street, slowing down cars. It can enhance the image of a neighborhood, inviting younger adults to relocate there. It also gives a save alternative to using their car.

Is there a down side?

Depending on what modifications are made to the intersections, some drivers may be inconvenienced, requiring a change in the route they may use.

What is the implementation process?

After the public meeting, City engineers will incorporate comments into a more detailed design before presenting the project to the City Council and general public at a hearing. After the hearing, implementation will proceed as directed by Council. Because of federal funding rules, implementation would most likely happen in the summer of 2014.

Results from implementing the Windsor - Ash Bike Boulevard:

1. Vehicle traffic went down from 942 vehicles per day to 522, a 42% reduction
2. Bicycle traffic during a measured 4 hour peak time (morning and late afternoon) increased from 33 to 71, a 125% increase.
3. Vehicle speeds went down two mph - from 26 to 24 (85% of all cars below that speed)
4. A neighborhood survey showed a strong majority in favor of the bike boulevard (see results)
5. The neighborhoods became involved and created two street murals.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The Bike Boulevard is a good idea	13	4	3	2	1
I use the Bike Boulevard for biking	11	2	5	0	3
Cars drive slower now	6	6.5	3.5	3	4
There are fewer cars now	6	7	3	4	1
There are more bikes now	9	4	5	5	0
I find the markings confusing	1	9	1	5	5
Bike Boulevard improves the neighborhood image	13	2	6	1	0
I have ideas for how to make the Bike Boulevard better	2	5	3	0	2

