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## 28th Street South Neighborhood Complete Streets Project – Community Engagement Summary

### Project Background

The Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) program received an application for safety improvements on 28<sup>th</sup> Street South from South Meade Street to 26<sup>th</sup> Street South, to improve the comfort and safety of pedestrians crossing 28<sup>th</sup> Street South heading to Gunston Park, the Gunston Bubble, Gunston Middle School and Oakridge Elementary School. The application was scored on objective criteria, with consideration to the history of crashes with injuries, vehicle speeds, and the close proximity to several public facilities in this transit corridor with dense, multifamily housing.

### Project Goals

This project seeks to improve safety and access by improving three pedestrian crossing opportunities by shortening the crossing distance and increasing the visibility, improving transit Stops, while maintaining and augmenting on-street parking. By narrowing the roadway in three locations along this corridor, travel speeds may be reduced, to the benefit of all modes, including cycling.

### Public Engagement

An online engagement form was shared with the community in January 2022 and open for two weeks. Participants were asked to review information about the project background and goals, existing conditions, to provide feedback on the concept design and answer questions about their experiences using the street within the project limits. In total, there were 68 respondents to the online engagement form.

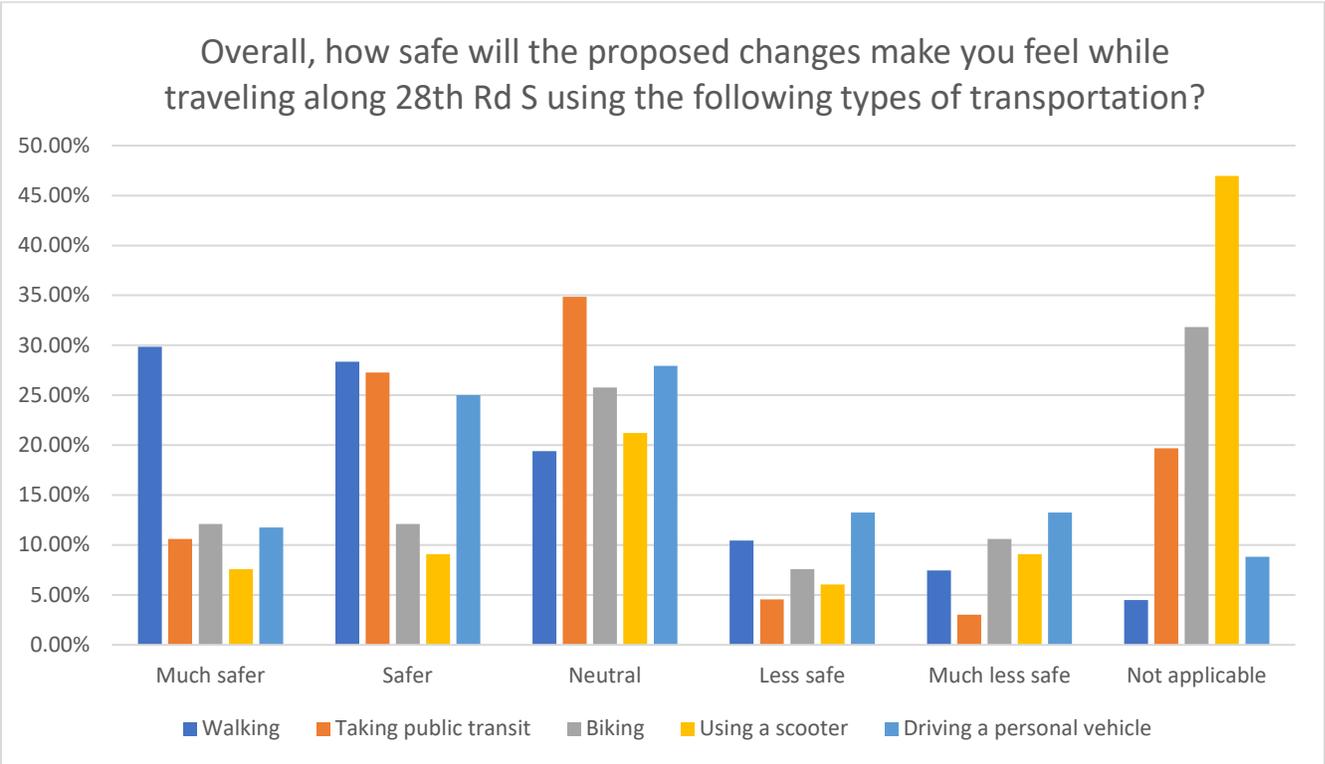
### What We Heard

Overall, feedback indicated support for the proposed improvements shown in the concept plan. Participants in the engagement process identified the existing conditions that create safety concerns for those walking/rolling and biking through the project area. Under the proposed concept conditions, a majority of respondents indicated they would feel a higher level of safety while walking/rolling or biking through the area. Additionally, written comments were received as part of the questionnaire. The key takeaways from the written comments are summarized below.

### Survey Responses

- Survey respondents reside in Arlington (95.59%), with some who work in Arlington (13.24%)
- Survey respondents shared that they walk (82.35%), drive a personal vehicle (75.00%) around Arlington, with transit and riding a bicycle at 27.94% frequency each.

Figure 1: Safety - Proposed Conditions



- 58.21% who indicated that they walk around Arlington, indicated that the proposed changes would make them feel “safer” or “much safer.”
- 37.88% who indicated that they take transit indicated that the proposed changes would make them feel “safer” or “much safer.”
- More drivers answered that the proposed changes would make them feel “safer” or “much safer” than “less safe” or “much less safe.” Similarly, more cyclists indicated positive response than negative response to the proposed safety improvements.

Written Comments

Through the online engagement form, 46 written comments were received related to the proposed changes. Common themes associated with the written comments included:

- *Concern for on-street parking* – The project will create a net gain of five parking spaces. Staff have since included a link to a drawing that demonstrates the positive parking changes on the project page.
- *Concerns about vehicle travel speeds* – Separate from this project, the County is proceeding with a School Slow Zone pilot project for Gunston Middle School which will reduce the maximum speed

limit from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. The School Slow Zone pilot and 28<sup>th</sup> Street South NCS project will both include monitoring of travel speeds upon completion.

- *Concern for cyclists traveling along 28<sup>th</sup> Street South* – Staff internally reviewed the concerns for cyclists traveling along 28<sup>th</sup> Street South and found that there is insufficient Street width to accommodate any kind of bike lane, particularly with parking in high demand for multifamily housing, and multiple public facilities at the Gunston complex. Staff are looking to incorporate additional signage and striping, as well as adding bike racks near Gunston Park. Slower travel speeds should increase the safety of cyclists.
- *Poor quality of existing curb ramps* – Curb ramps will be replaced and upgraded at each of the three improved pedestrian crossings.
- *Requests to add a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)* – RRFBs are a tool used for multi-lane roadways, where there is more than one travel lane in each direction. As such, an RRFB cannot be included in this project.

## Next Steps

With public support for the overall project, Staff will work to address the concerns that were shared throughout the engagement process into the next stages of the design. A final concept plan for the project will be shared on the project web page and presented for consideration of the Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission at a public Funding Hearing. If the Commission votes to recommend the project, it will be advanced to the Arlington County Board for approval. At that point, the project would begin detailed design and implementation.

## More Information

- Review the project page: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/28th-Street-South-Neighborhood-Complete-Streets-Project>
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