

15th Street S./ S. Clark-Bell Street Realignment – Community Engagement Summary

Project Background

What are the goals of this project?

The 15th Street South/South Clark-Bell Street Realignment project is a goal of both the Crystal City Sector Plan and Crystal City Multimodal Transportation Study. It will realign sections of 15th Street South and South Clark Street and create space for a garden park. The changes will improve safety for all modes of transportation and help establish the long-term street grid for Crystal City, along with the South Clark-Bell Street Demolition project (completed in March 2020).

What is the current status of the project?

DES staff and consultants have advanced the design to 90% completion based on planning guidance and public feedback. However, it was noted that a dedicated public meeting for this project had not yet been held. Therefore, staff planned a virtual public design meeting to share project updates and gather public feedback on the design prior to completion.

Public Engagement:

The project team held a virtual community meeting on June 22, 2021. It featured a short presentation and a question and answer session. A copy of the meeting's presentation and recording of the meeting can be found on the project website:
<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/15th-street-clark-bell-street-realignment/>

Alongside the virtual community meeting, project staff shared an online engagement form with the public. The form asked participants to review the information presented during the meeting, which presented 90% design plans that featured 15th Street South redesigned as a Complete Street, including protected bike lanes, upgraded sidewalks, street trees and a realignment of Clark-Bell to a traditional, squared-off intersection. The online engagement opportunity closed on July 11, 2021. In total, staff received 59 responses to the online engagement form.

What We Heard:

Overall, public feedback indicated support for the proposed improvements. Under the 90% design conditions, a majority of respondents indicated they would feel a higher level of safety while walking/rolling or biking through the area.

Survey Responses

- 80.0% of respondents would feel "Very Safe" or "Safe" walking/rolling in the project area after the 90% design was implemented. 6.0% would feel "Less Safe."
- 75.51% of respondents would feel "Very Safe" or "Safe" biking in the project area after the 90% design was implemented. 2.04% would feel "Less Safe."

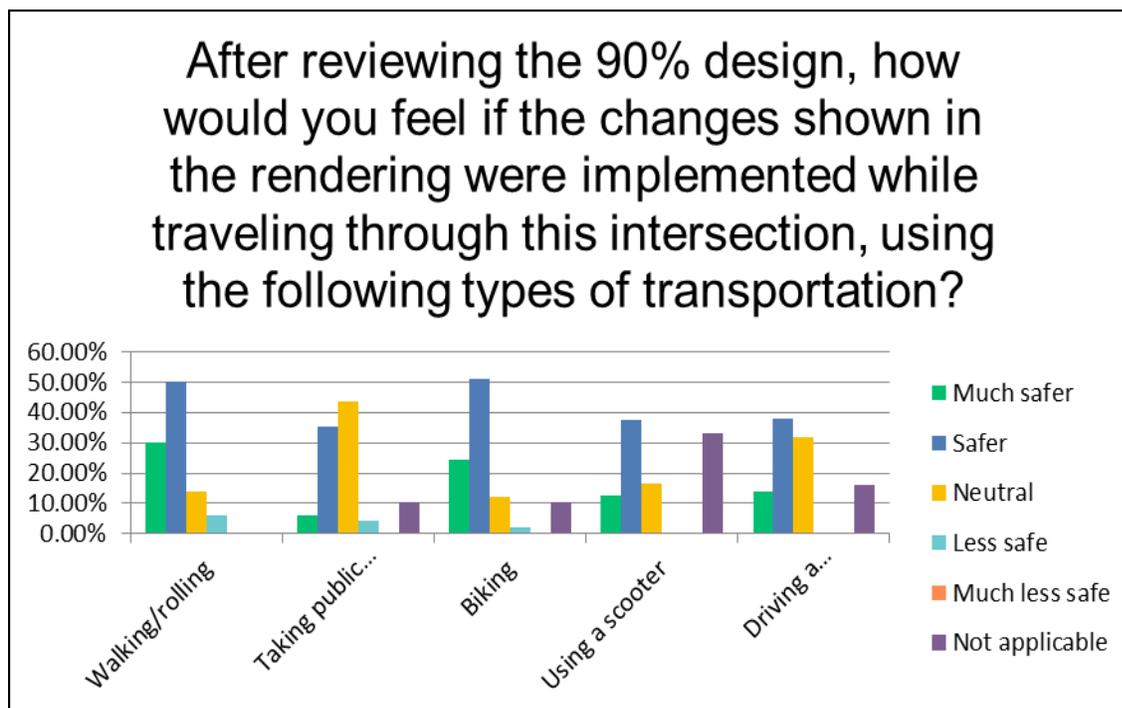


Figure 1: Safety – Proposed 90% Design Conditions

Written Comments

During the question and answer portion of the virtual public meeting, staff received 65 questions and comments about the project. After the meeting, through the online engagement form, 32 additional written comments were received related to the proposed changes. There were common themes associated with the written comments, including:

- Connection of multi-use trail from Bell to 15th
- Vehicle and bicycle conflicts at the corner of Bell & 15th (southwestern corner)
- Bicycle safety at Crystal Dr & 15th
- Bicycle safety along 15th St eastbound and westbound, between Crystal Dr and Route 1
- The future park

As a result of the feedback from the public meeting and subsequent online engagement, the project team has engaged with our consultant to work on adjustments to the current design.

Next Steps

The project team is committed to re-visiting portions of the 90% design and reviewing them based on the concerns that were voiced both at and after the public meeting in June.

The project team anticipates investigating additional changes updates to the following areas of the project and implementing what updates are feasible:

- 15th St S. & S. Clark/Bell (Northside of intersection) – specifically the westbound bicyclist area
- 15th St S. – Eastbound bicyclist movement
- Crystal Dr & 15th St. S. – intersection improvements for bicyclists
- S. Clark St – Additional mid-block crossing for people using the proposed multi-use tra

While this list is not exhaustive of all points in the project where the project team is looking to make updates, it does reflect the most common elements of feedback received.

Updated plans for the project will be shared with members of the public once this review and update have been completed.

More Information

- Review the project page: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/15th-street-clark-bell-street-realignment/>
- Staff contact:

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