

Exposition Avenue Traffic Calming Study Meeting #3

September 24th, 2024 – 6:00 PM



Amanda
SAWYER

DENVER CITY COUNCIL ★ DISTRICT 5

CONNECTING PEOPLE & GOVERNMENT

Agenda

- Project background & process
- What is traffic calming?
- Data collection & outreach summary
- Recommendations
- Next steps
- Questions and community discussion

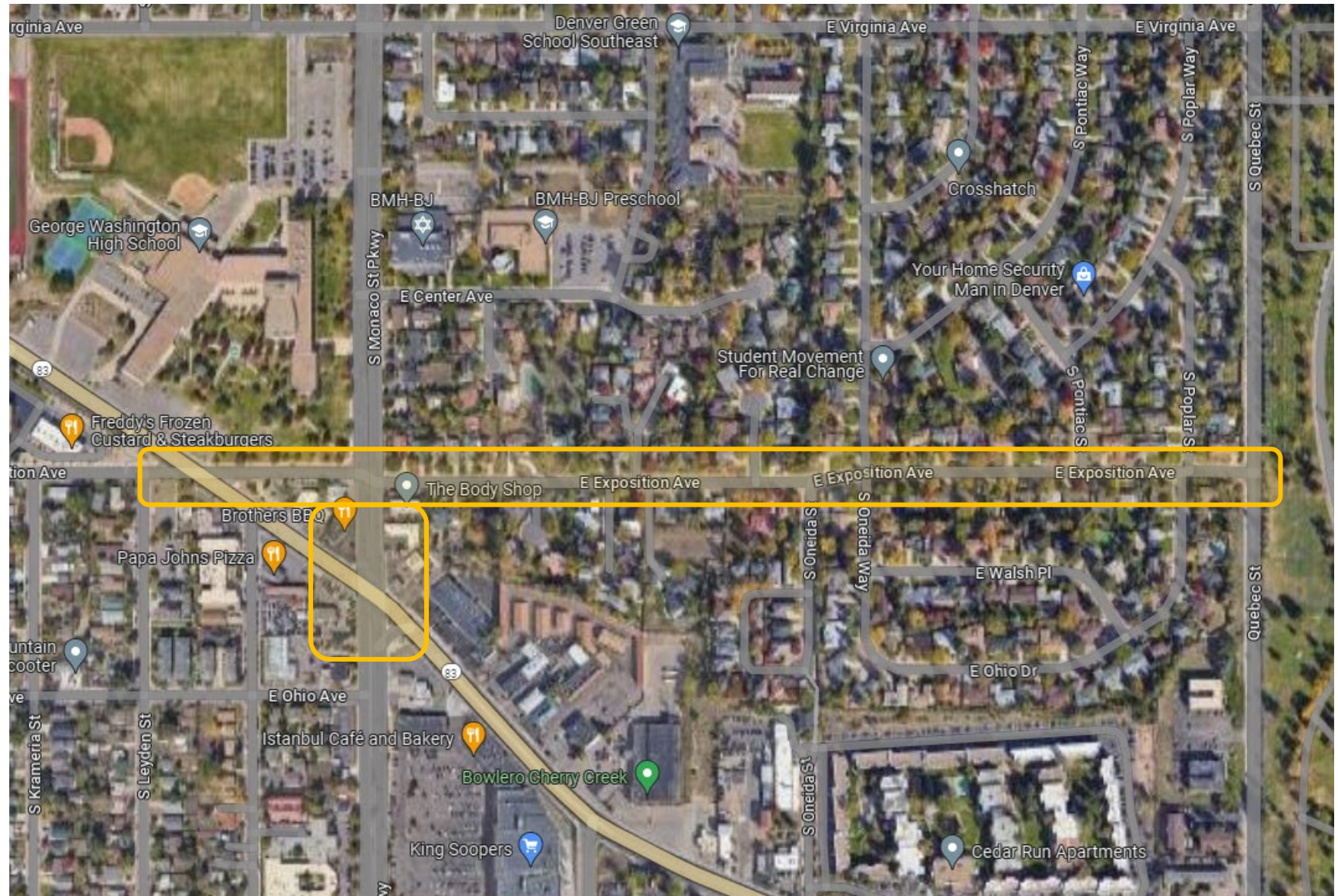
Project Background & Process

Background

- Council District 5 has received concerns from constituents regarding the difficulty traveling and perceived safety issues along Exposition Avenue and at the Monaco Parkway/Leetsdale Drive intersection (including **speeding, cut-through traffic, and challenges walking and biking**).
- Council District 5 has hired an engineering consultant to assist us in analyzing travel patterns and traffic calming strategies, along with the input from a working group of local neighborhood leaders.

Study Area

- Exposition Avenue from Leetsdale Drive to Quebec Street
- Monaco Parkway & Leetsdale Drive intersection



Working Group Members

- **Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer**
- **Owen Brigner**, Councilwoman Sawyer's Office
- **Matthew Walter**, Councilwoman Sawyer's Office
- **Molly Lanphier**, Denver's Department of Transportation & Infrastructure
- **Charles Alexander**, Fehr & Peers
- **Sydney Provan**, Fehr & Peers
- **Debbie Costin**, Winston Downs Community Association
- **Mickey Greenberg**, Winston Downs Community Association
- **Carrie Olson**, DPS Board of Education District 3
- **Lindsey Levin-Salamon**, BMH-BJ Preschool
- **Dackri Davis**, George Washington High School
- **Jose Piza**, Denver Green School
- **Jessica Krichbaum**, Denver Green School
- **Prudence Daniels**, Denver Green School
- **Kelly Briggs**, Fairmount Cemetery
- **Joe Levi**, DOTI Advisory Board Member for D5
- **Jace Davis**, Bicycle Colorado

Study Process



1 public community meeting per phase.

What is Traffic Calming?

What is Traffic Calming?

- **Infrastructure and programs** to encourage responsible driving, reduce traffic speeds, and control traffic volumes.
- Goal is to ensure our roadways are **safe and comfortable for everyone**.
- Traffic calming measures fit into one of three categories, referred to as the **three "Es"**.

What is Traffic Calming?

Engineering (DOTI)



- Only E that DOTI influences.
- Infrastructure changes that encourage drivers to slow down or use different streets.

Education



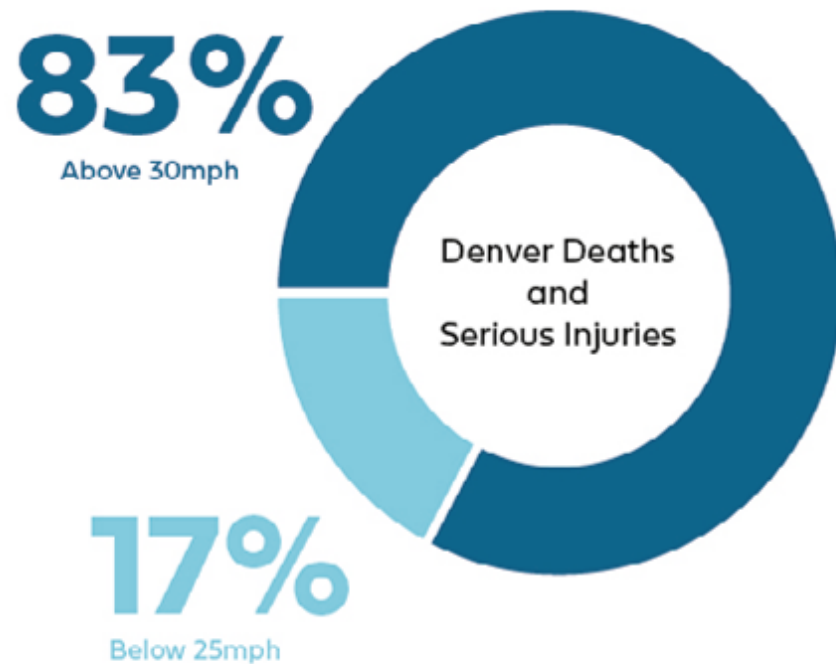
- Generally community led.
- Educate and encourage roadway users to respect safety and the experience of other roadway users.

Enforcement



- Police Department Neighborhood Enforcement team is the front line.
- Effective but must be frequent.

Why Does Traffic Calming Matter?



Hit by a Vehicle Traveling at:



Examples of Traffic Calming Improvements

- Painted curb extensions/bulb-outs
- Painted pedestrian refuge islands
- Crossing markings
- Signage
- Flashing beacons
- Street lighting
- Movement restrictions or diverters

Curb Extension/Bulbout



Pedestrian Refuge Island



Previous District 5 Traffic Calming Projects:

- 8th Avenue
- 6th Avenue
- Dayton Street
- Uinta Way



Implemented improvements at
8th Avenue & Dexter Street intersection

Is there funding for construction?

- Not currently. This study will identify how much improvements may cost so that a funding source can be identified.
- DOTI may be able to construct some low-cost projects in 2026.

Data Collection & Outreach Summary

Data Collection Performed

- Traffic Volumes and Speeds – April 24, 2024 & June 14, 2024
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Counts – April 24, 2024
- Crash Analysis – January 2019 through December 2023
- 311 Data – May 2023 through May 2024
- Field Observations – May 8th, 2024
- Parking Counts – May 15th, 2024 (5am & 10am)

Spring vs Summer Volume & Speed

- Traffic volumes and speeds – June 14 vs. April 24
- **Summary**
 - Total volume slightly higher on June 14
 - 7-9 AM volume higher on April 24 (275 veh/2-hrs) vs. June 14 (186 veh/2-hrs); volume difference was mostly westbound
 - PM volumes similar on both days
 - Speeds
 - Noticeable shift of traffic 25-29 MPH to 30-35 MPH on April 24
 - Traffic going 35+ MPH similar on both days

Data Analysis Highlights

- High speeds along Exposition Ave (85th %tile – 35 MPH)
- High numbers of pedestrian crossings at major intersections
- Crash history includes vulnerable users (5 crashes in 5 years) fatalities/serious injuries (1 fatality, 4 serious injuries in 5 years)
- Drivers not obeying existing movement restrictions at Exposition Ave & Quebec St (NBL) or Exposition Ave & Monaco Pkwy (EBT)
- Area congestion creates potential for neighborhood cut-through traffic
- Uncommon parking regulations in effect for residential street

Outreach Summary

- Spring 2024 survey (90 responses)
- February 27 Public Meeting
- May 21 Public Meeting



**Let's make
Exposition Avenue
safer.**

Help us improve safety by taking our survey. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/ExpositionAveSurvey

And, sign up for our first virtual public meeting on **February 27th, 2024** at 6:00 PM bit.ly/ExpositionStudyFeb

Paid for by Denver Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer.

Outreach Feedback Highlights

Site Specific Concerns

Exposition Avenue

- Drivers use as cut-through street
- Desire for speed/volume reductions

Monaco Parkway & Exposition Avenue

- Most popular crossing location for pedestrians and most challenging to cross
- Visibility is a challenge

Monaco Parkway & Leetsdale Drive

- Second most popular crossing location for pedestrians and second most challenging to cross

Study Area Wide Concerns

- People walking or biking feel vehicle speeds are unsafe and drivers do not obey traffic laws
- Need for automated pedestrian crossing phases at traffic lights (particularly Friday & Saturday during Shabbat)
- Concerns with the roadway design and traffic light operations at nearby major intersections that affect people walking (crossing), biking, and driving
- Desire to complete sidewalk gaps
- Recent changes in traffic patterns from new parking management at George Washington High School

Recommendations

Short-term Recommendations

Speed Management

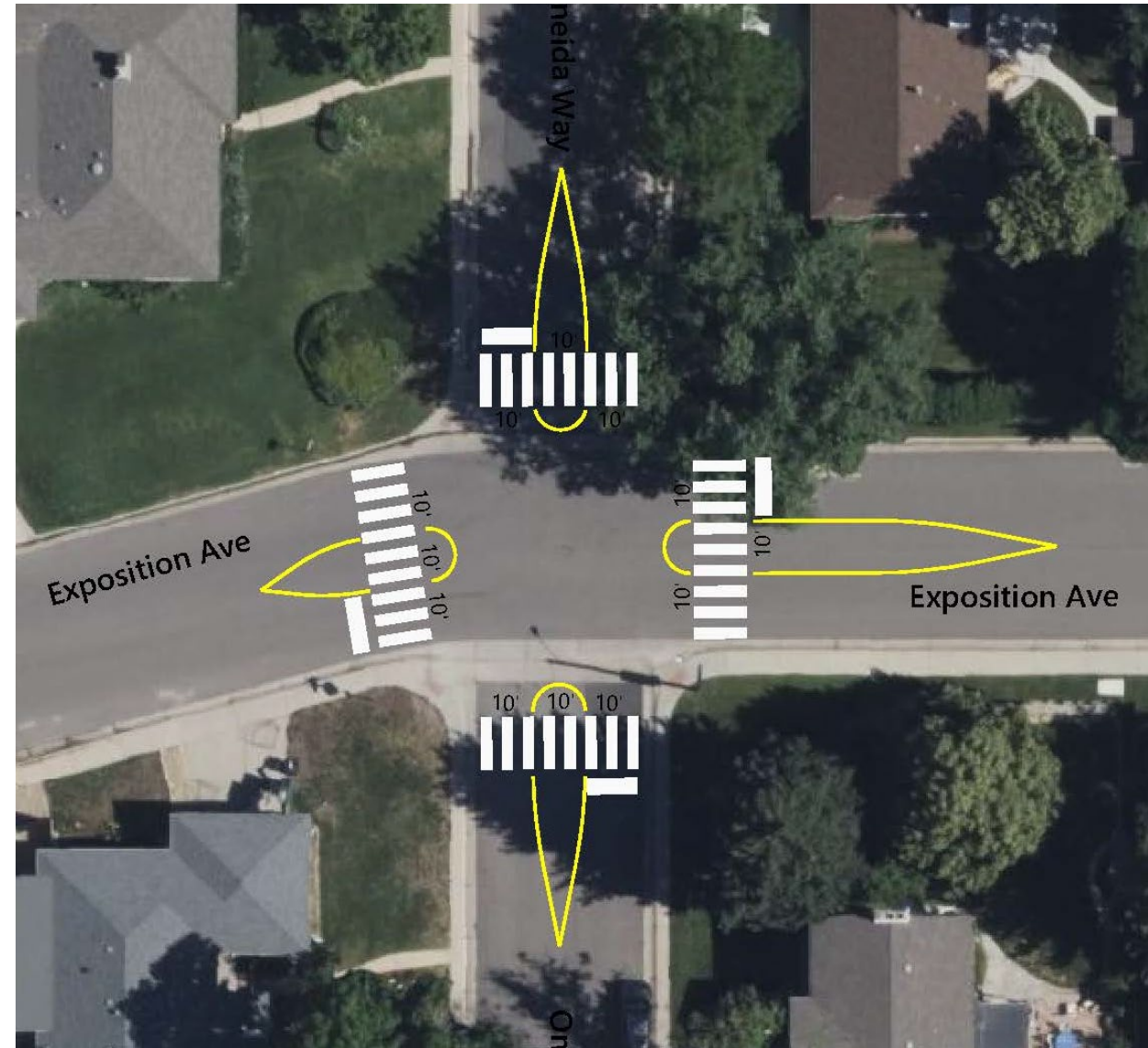
Speed cushions
-20-25% speed reduction expected



Short-term Recommendations

Exposition Avenue & Oneida Way

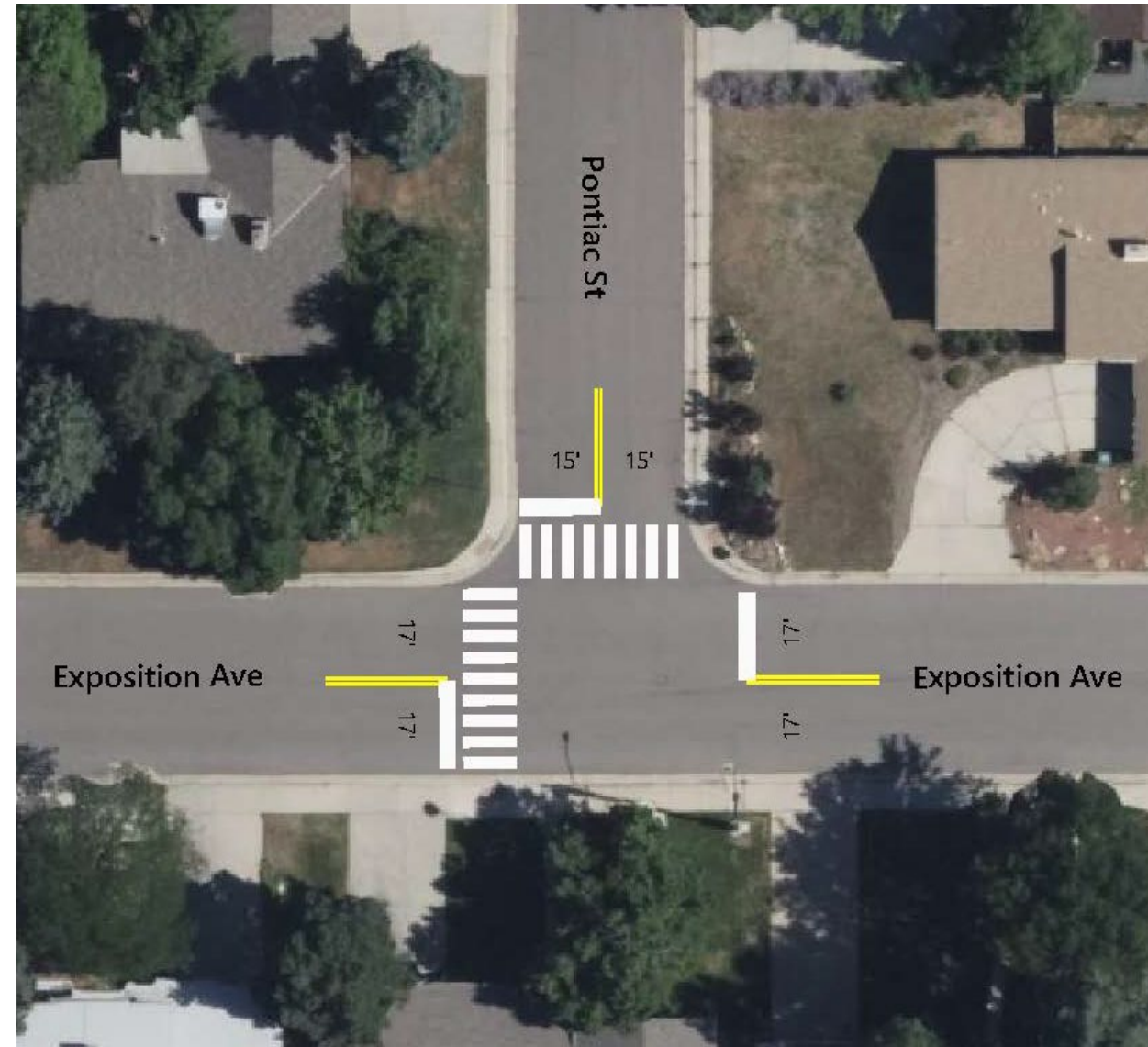
- Marked crosswalks
- Stop bars
- Pedestrian refuge islands
Note: requires prohibiting parking near refuge islands



Short-term Recommendations

Exposition Avenue & Pontiac Street

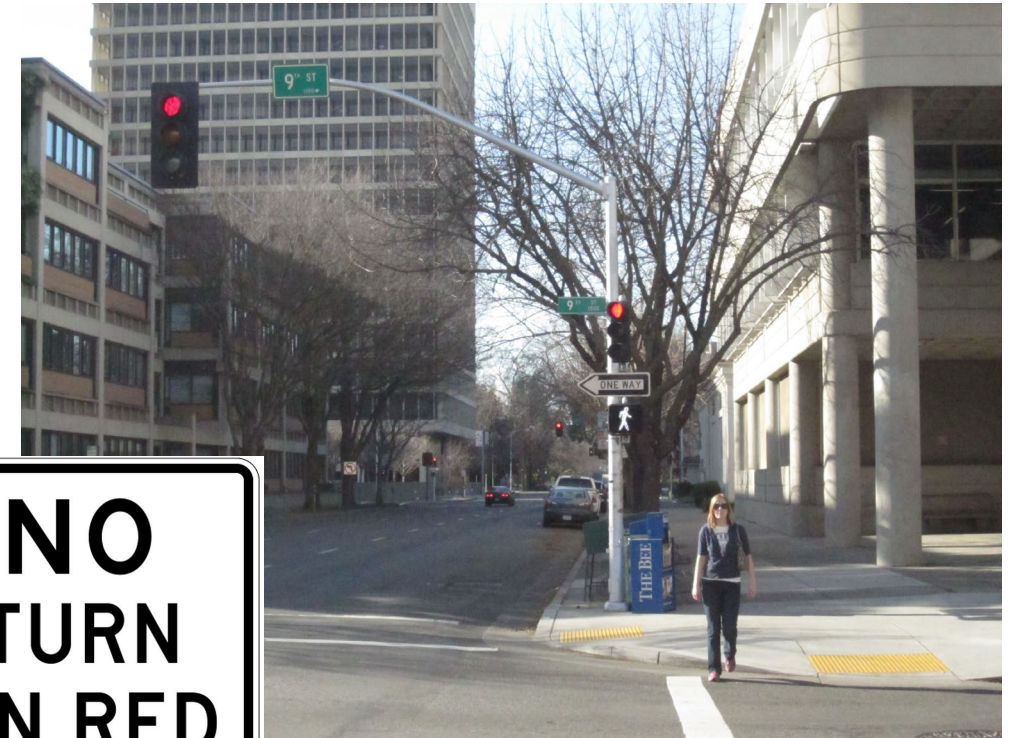
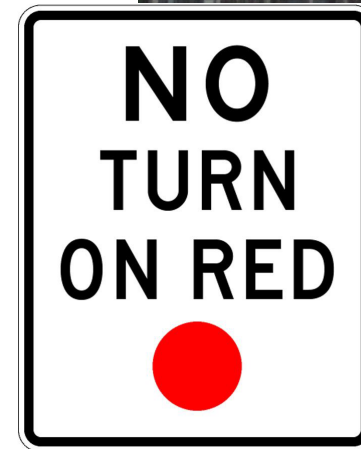
- Marked crosswalks
- Stop bars



Short-term Recommendations

Traffic Light Improvements

- Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI) wherever possible
- Pedestrian recall (automatic walk) on Sabbath and holidays
- Upgrade right-turn on red signage



Leading Pedestrian Interval

Short-term Recommendations

Movement Prohibition Signs

Replace with legible font size



Trim Overhanging Vegetation

This has been reported to 311 for response



Short-term Recommendations

On-street Parking Regulations

- Concerns regarding use of on-street parking by auto repair shop have been forwarded to Right of Way Enforcement and Neighborhood Inspections for follow-up.
It is unclear if a violation has occurred.
- Report issues to Police non-emergency (720) 913-2000
-or-
through 3-1-1
<https://www.denvergov.org/Online-Services-Hub/Report-an-Issue>

Long-term Recommendations

- **Monaco Parkway/Exposition Avenue modifications to retaining wall on northeast corner:** to improve visibility between drivers and pedestrians crossing Monaco Parkway (north leg)
- **Monaco Parkway/Exposition Avenue eastbound left-turn operations upgrade:** add green arrow pending changes in Denver's policy for left-turn operation
- **Sidewalk gaps & widening:** will be completed as a part of Initiated Ordinance 307
- **Red light cameras at area traffic lights:** pending citywide prioritization



Treatments Considered But Not Recommended

Corridor Treatments

- **Bike lanes:** Denver Moves plan proposes a neighborhood bikeway which allows for more speed management options and is more appropriate for the volumes on Exposition Avenue
- **Traffic diversion:** Exposition Avenue is classified as a collector street, would push more traffic to Virginia Avenue, neighborhood access would be impacted
- **Centerline:** research suggests that speeds could increase with a centerline
- **Rumble strips:** not appropriate for residential context due to noise concerns

Treatments Considered But Not Recommended

Intersection Treatments

- **Yellow and red intervals:** reviewed and meets current guidelines
- **Quebec Street/Exposition Avenue traffic light:** does not meet warrants
- **Monaco Parkway/Exposition Avenue westbound programmed visibility traffic light lens:** speed cushions will address speeding concerns
- **Monaco Parkway/Exposition Avenue westbound changes to lane configurations:** traffic volumes do not meet DOTI thresholds for exclusive lanes
- **Flashing lights on stop signs:** speed cushions, stop bars, marked crosswalks, and pedestrian refuge islands will address speeding and yielding concerns

Next Steps

- Team will refine concepts based on today's discussion and develop a formal memo
- Memo will be posted on Councilwoman Sawyer's website
- Pursue funding for short-term recommendations

Questions & Community Discussion

Thank you!



Amanda
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DENVER CITY COUNCIL ★ DISTRICT 5

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