

PROJECT UPDATE – March 2025 McDowell Road Revitalization Project

The City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department appreciates the community’s participation and thoughtful input while it considered proposed changes to McDowell Road between 7th Street and State Route 51.

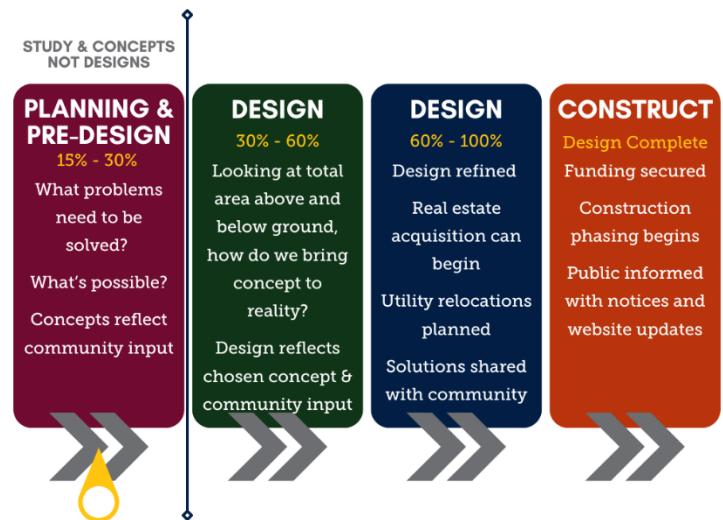
Discussions leading to this planning and pre-design effort began among the merchants and Phoenix Community Alliance back in 2018 or so. Residents and businesses in the immediate area wanted a more pedestrian-friendly and inviting place to explore the diverse dining and shopping experiences along the McDowell Miracle Mile.

Because these concepts involved construction and streetscape elements, this became a City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department planning effort.

PLANNING DETAILS

The Pre-Design Study’s initial focus was entirely on the area behind the curb, not changing the roadway itself. In 2022, evaluating opportunities for bike lanes was added to the Pre-Design and Study phase, based on community requests. This study benefitted from robust public input and four separate public engagement meetings, along with additional stakeholder group meetings.

No funding has been identified for engineering design or construction of any of the possible concepts.



DECISION

Any options for adding dedicated bicycle infrastructure would require removal of at least one car travel lane. With ongoing downtown development, a new multifamily complex being built on McDowell Road and the prospects of future private-sector development around the Banner University Hospital complex, the current and future demands on McDowell Road may be higher than the study anticipated.

The Department has evaluated options for tree planting within the corridor and plans to add approximately a dozen new trees later this year. The Department is going to monitor ongoing changes along McDowell Road between 7th Street and State Route 51 before any future design work gets underway.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Street Transportation Department remains committed to building out a safer street transportation network that serves the needs of all road users. Funding has not been identified for engineering design or construction of the project. Department leadership believes it is best to learn more about ongoing redevelopment in and around the McDowell Road corridor before proceeding with further design.

Desert-adapted, low-water-use trees will be planted in the city right-of-way before the end of 2025.