



Railroad Crossing Improvements @ Atlanta Avenue

About

The City of Decatur plans to provide an “at-grade” railroad crossing at Atlanta Avenue that improves safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists and to turn this area into as nice an amenity as possible. Improvements at the railroad crossing can include new streets, sidewalks, traffic signals, and greenspace. The purpose of the open house/workshops is to invite the Decatur community, residents, and business owners to provide insight, ideas, and concepts to the City to develop the best plan possible.

This is the *second* of three workshops over the next several months during the design phase of the project, which is expected to take about a year. We appreciate your participation and your continued involvement over the next few months.



History (From the City of Decatur - Community Transportation Plan)

This project was first conceived during the City’s 2007 Community Transportation Plan. The plan had the following comments about this railroad crossing:

Opportunity:

This busy intersection is greatly influenced by the presence of the railroad tracks, not just due to the frequency of train crossings but due to the complexity of slotted traffic lanes and multi-signal phasing that creates safer operations during train crossings. The tracks, however, are a barrier between north and south Decatur. Opportunities exist to improve travel across and parallel to the tracks. This would transform the way residents and visitors travel to and from neighborhoods to the south and southwest of downtown.

Need and Purpose:

To increase the number of people walking and bicycling along the “Path”, Atlanta Avenue, Howard Avenue and College Avenue; to increase the frequency of people walking to and from downtown and neighborhoods to the south and southwest of downtown. The bicycle and pedestrian improvements are consistent

with the Pedestrian and Bicycle system improvement maps presented elsewhere in this Plan.

Problems to be Addressed: *The intersection is too large, complex and intimidating for most pedestrians and bicyclists. In particular, the “Path” on the northwest corner is circuitous in that two street crossings are required. Some crossings do not meet the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. None of these are “complete streets” as they do not include adequate facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.*

The crossover movement across the railroad tracks from westbound College Avenue to westbound Howard Avenue is confusing in that the shortest path often results in the longest delays since traffic signals are not present to control Howard Avenue, however, if a hard right-turn is made across the railroad tracks then a traffic signal is available to cross Howard Avenue. Residents living south and southwest of downtown are not likely to walk across this intersection unless they must.

[From the City of Decatur - Community Transportation Plan, p.

Scope/Schedule

The City of Decatur welcomes civic engagement and has scheduled public workshops as well as smaller stakeholder meetings as needed. Today’s meeting is the *second public workshop and includes* a “community academy” to address a specific topic (for example, traffic signals) and to enable further development and refinement of alternative approaches to the railroad crossing and an opportunity for the community to weigh in on feasible alternatives. There will also be a workshop that offers the community an opportunity to comment on and offer refinements to the best and most feasible community design alternative.

| | Nov | Dec | Jan. 2019 | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | August | Sept | Oct | Nov |
|---|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|------|-----|-----|
| Task 1 : Site Analysis and Master Planning | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2 : Design Development | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3 : Construction Documents | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 4 : Bid Assistance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |