



# WANA Comment on Contracted Improvements to West Ash

Council Meeting 1/18/22

# WANA values Pedestrian Safety

- The West Ash neighborhood is highly walkable and already **serves as a pedestrian corridor.**
- Connects downtown and central neighborhoods to Gerbes, the ARC, Farmer's Market, schools.



# Problems

- Incomplete sidewalks require pedestrians to cross unpredictably
- Incomplete pedestrian lanes do not offer protection from traffic
- Numerous traffic collisions at Ash and West Blvd.

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## Car crash caused down power lines in west Columbia

Leah Vredenbregt, KOMU 8 Digital Producer Jul 1, 2021

# WANA's Previous Traffic Requests

- Request for traffic calming began in July 2019
- Surveys were collected with 89 participants,
  - 29 participants living along West Ash
  - > 10 requirement for each street.
- During public input for repaving, suggested alternate markings for street crossings and bike lane
- Previous WANA president, Zandra De Arajuo submitted a proposal including long term and short term strategies to improve pedestrian safety.

# Improvements to Ash Street

R172-21 Authorizing an agreement for professional services with Barlett & West, Inc. for design services relating to nonmotorized/pedestrian and intersection improvements along Ash Street, between Providence Road and Clinkscales Road.

**Recommended Action:** [Read & Vote/Mayor Memo]

**Attachments:** [Council Memo](#)

[Location Diagram](#)

[Resolution](#)

[Attachment A to Resolution](#)



# Nonmotorized Pedestrian Improvements

- 8 – 10 ft Raised Pedway on the North side of Ash
  - Replaces the bike lane and narrows the driving lane.<sup>1</sup>
- Complete sidewalks and bike lane on South side

An important investment in pedestrian connectivity for the city at large.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wri.org/insights/bigger-isnt-always-better-narrow-traffic-lanes-make-cities-safer>

# Intersection Improvements

- Phase I will evaluate the existing configuration, improved stop control, a roundabout and potential signal control.

In order to best support pedestrian infrastructure,  
Any improvements to intersections should be  
made on a pedestrian scale.

# What We Do Want

- We would like raised crossings where the Pedway crosses intersections.<sup>2</sup>
- Keep street trees or replace with equally mature trees.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Complete sidewalks on both sides of the street.
- Narrow driving lanes and intersections.



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cabq.gov/neighborhood-traffic-management-program/documents/raised-crosswalk.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.radarsign.com/street-trees-promote-traffic-calming/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2019/1/8/new-20-mph-street>



# Public Input Process

- We want to be involved.
- We would like for our ideas and experiences to have an impact on the Phase I outcomes and on plans going into Phase II.
- Please include West Ash Neighborhood Association on the contact list for interested parties.

President Laura Mitchell [WANA65203@gmail.com](mailto:WANA65203@gmail.com)

- Please share any data from traffic studies.
- We would like to be notified before the field walk-through.