

Establish Stronger Connections to Neighbors



Connect 11th and 12th Streets from Bethany Park to ME Pearson Elementary School to enhance after school activities.

COMMUNITY NEED

In walking around the neighborhoods that surround Central Avenue, and surveying local residents, it is observed that safe, enjoyable connections by foot and bicycle are often missing.

To the north of Central Avenue, several community assets would benefit from better connections to one another and linking to downtown along Minnesota Avenue to Central Avenue:

- Waterway Park has been redeveloped with support from CHWC to provide a variety of amenities (playground, walking loop with exercise stations, landscaping and soon-to-be-installed soccer field) that attract families and their kids.

- Pearson Elementary School is a well-established public school that supports the local families and draws many international families.
- Splitlog Farm has recently been developed by CHWC on three empty lots in the heart of the Bethany Neighborhood. It's intended purpose is to demonstrate gardening to nearby Pearson Elementary students and to provide healthy food to the neighbors that surround it.
- Northrup Park has received support from KC Community Gardens to develop garden plots available to local residents.
- 10th Street is currently being developed

by the city to provide designated bike routes along the roadway. It is anticipated that this roadway development will bring new interest in retail and other commercial activities to this area;

- a senior housing development will soon be developed by CHWC between 11th and 12th Streets and just north of the Bethany Medical Center.

PROCESS

Based on surveying local residents at a couple of fall events, speaking to administrators at the Pearson Elementary School and speaking with Steve Curtis at Splitlog Farm, it is felt that the greatest improvements would be to connect



Connect neighborhoods with 10th Street's commercial and bikeway route. (Drawing by Rabia Bajwa).

all of the amenities together along the major north/south roads, 10th, 11th and 12th Streets and between these streets from Central Avenue to Minnesota. Such improvements include:

- provide continuous, safe pedestrian sidewalks;
- develop a 'Safe Routes to Schools' program around Pearson elementary that would promote traffic calming elements and safe cross walks;
- beyond what the City is currently doing to improve 10th Street, provide designated bicycle routes on 11th from Minnesota to Central Avenue and on 12th Street between Pearson elementary and Central Avenue;

- improve the area that is currently overgrown south of Pearson Elementary.

NEXT STEPS

Seek feedback on the various student proposals through Pearson Elementary School, the UG City Planners, local residents and CHWC as they develop housing projects. With a concentrated plan to improve the major north/south connecting streets, the neighborhoods will benefit from better access to the major entities and it will encourage walking and bicycling to parks and nearby retail.

PROJECT FACTS

Timeline: August 2015-Present

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

- Rabia Bajwa
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- Shannon Criss, Professor

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Central Avenue Betterment Association (CABA)
- Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
- KU Work Group for Community Health & Development
- Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC)

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- Marty Thoennes, CABA
- Edgar Galicia, CABA
- Steve Curtis, CHWC
- Diosselyn Tot, CHWC