

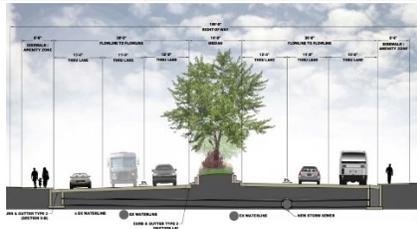
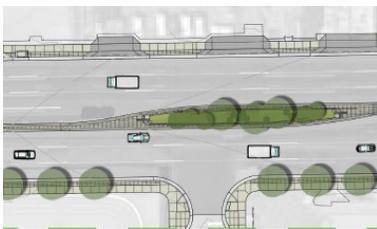


Federal Boulevard Improvements

(West 5th Avenue / Howard Place)

Denver, Colorado

City and County of Denver



Counterclockwise from top: View along Federal Boulevard, map of landscape median improvements; cross section of boulevard (© 2014 City & County of Denver).

A comprehensive design process led to multimodal safety improvements in a busy and dangerous segment of a commercial corridor.

CONTEXT

- Under construction in 2018.
- High Plains.
- \$34 million.
- 1-mile segment of Federal Boulevard.
- 30-40,000 Annual average daily traffic.



COMPLETING THE STREET

- Busy commercial corridor, north-south link; 2nd-highest transit ridership in the city.
- Improved sidewalks, median landscaping for safety, and transit improvements.
- Part of larger corridor plan; public social media campaign.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

Due to high speeds and daily vehicle volume, six lanes of traffic, lack of intersections/crosswalks, and a discontinuous sidewalk system, a one-mile stretch of Federal Boulevard in Denver (between 5th Avenue and Howard Place) had fatality and injury crash rates more than three times the statewide average.

HOW DID THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?

The Denver Department of Public Works (DPW) led the task of addressing these major safety concerns through improvements that serve all modes with the focus of enhancing multimodal connectivity and safety.

The project team prioritized the need for a **Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)** study in the early stages of the project. The 2009 PEL study conducted for this segment included a purpose and need statement, consideration of environmental impacts, and a review of possible alternatives. The study found that many pedestrians and bicyclists had difficulties crossing the roadway, due to:

- The discontinuity of sidewalks along the corridor.
- The presence of many curb cuts and driveways
- A lack of crosswalks.
- Lengthy stretches of roadway without intersections and signals.

All of these factors led to unsafe conditions and crashes. Additionally, there is a planned Federal/Decatur light rail station at Howard Place, which contributes to a forecast increase in daily traffic volumes by approximately 30 percent by 2035, with additional pedestrian and bicyclist activity also expected. The PEL study helped the DPW identify and decide the project action to prioritize the necessary multimodal improvements.

Additionally, the subsequent Environmental Assessment (EA) found that over 40 percent of the residents in the adjacent neighborhoods of Sun Valley and Villa Park use public transit to get to work. The EA determined that there is a large reliance on the corridor's pedestrian and bicycle facilities to provide **expanded access to transit**.

DPW conducted public involvement activities for the PEL study and continued during the EA. The project included opportunities for participation in the decision-making process as well as targeted outreach efforts to the **environmental justice** populations in the neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor.

Tools including **stakeholder engagement** and **virtual public involvement** were used to elicit

ideas from a wide range of community members. These included:

- Presentations and translation services to small groups (identified need for Spanish and Korean translation).
- Distribution of flyers at neighborhood meetings.
- Continued project updates to the webpage and social media sites.
- Interviews of property and business owners in the project area.

Set to begin construction in late 2018, the project will better enhance the connectivity of this heavily traveled corridor through the following design improvements:

- Reconfiguring Federal Boulevard to provide intersection turn lanes instead of a two-way turn lane.
- Widening the sidewalk from 5 feet to 8 feet, as well as providing accessible curb ramps and driveway cuts.
- Adding a raised median with landscaping as a buffer.
- Adding signage and pedestrian-scale lighting for the nearby Weir Gulch Trail.

WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS?



RESTORE

The improvement project is anticipated to reduce crashes along the corridor and create a safer and more efficient thoroughfare for pedestrians and drivers alike.

For more information:

<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/denver-department-of-public-works/projects/current/federal-blvd-5th-howard.html>

[https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/705/documents/PolicyPlanning/Current Projects/](https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/705/documents/PolicyPlanning/Current%20Projects/)

[FederalBlvd_5thtoHoward/Federal%20Public%20Meeting%20.pdf](https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/705/documents/PolicyPlanning/Current%20Projects/FederalBlvd_5thtoHoward/Federal%20Public%20Meeting%20.pdf)

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