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Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Projects Underway At Boulevard One in Lowry

Denver, CO – Boulevard One is envisioned as a multimodal, mixed-use community. Several projects are in the works to make it easier and safer to get around, whether you're walking, rolling, taking transit or driving.

The city's rapid growth and community concerns about traffic congestion prompted a mobility study in 2016. Now the LRA is implementing many of the recommendations. "In order to make a place multimodal, you have to design for it," said Hilarie Portell, mobility projects manager. "The city is updating its street design standards to better prioritize people as well as cars."

"We should encourage smart development like this throughout the city," said Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman, District 5, who secured matching funds for the safety projects. "As our community grows, we need to provide more safe and convenient ways for people to get around."

Quebec Street Safety Improvements

The LRA is coordinating with the Denver Department of Public Works to make safety modifications to the intersections at Quebec Street/First Avenue and Quebec Street/Lowry Boulevard. According to the city's new Vision Zero plan, Quebec is a "high injury network" street—one of the 5% of Denver streets where 50% of crashes happen. In fact, there were 75 crashes there between 2012 and 2015. This area is also identified as a "pedestrian priority area," where families, seniors, children, people with disabilities, transit riders and others are trying to get to various destinations. Quebec is a "speed and reliability transit corridor" in city plans.

Safety modifications are expected to be completed later this year and may include: wider medians that extend through the crosswalk to shorten the crossing distance and provide refuge for pedestrians; smaller turning motions to encourage motorists to yield to pedestrians; elimination of bus pullouts to shorten pedestrian crossing distance; and slightly narrower travel lanes to calm traffic but still allow it to move efficiently.

"These are not major changes but will substantially increase pedestrian safety while continuing to accommodate a high volume of vehicular traffic," said Portell. The LRA worked with WalkDenver, a pedestrian advocacy group; RTD and Denver Public Works Transportation & Mobility staff to identify possible improvements.

First Avenue Pedestrian Crossing and Bike Lane

During the Boulevard One planning process, community members pointed out the need for a safe crosswalk between the Schlessman Family Library and the Boulevard One mixed-use area, where many library patrons will park or shop. The LRA is proposing an "enhanced pedestrian crosswalk" at First Avenue and Poplar Street. The design, which must be consistent with new city standards, may include a pedestrian-activated signal. A new bike lane will also be added to the south side of First Avenue.

Signalized Intersection on Lowry Boulevard

A new signalized intersection will be installed at Lowry Boulevard and Pontiac Street later this year. The intersection, the last to be installed as part of the Boulevard One General Development Plan, will calm traffic and provide a safe pedestrian crossing between the mixed-use center and the community park.

Work is expected to be underway later this year.

Neighborhood Mobility Hub

The mixed-use center at Boulevard One will include a mobility hub to accommodate some 25% of people who arrive without their private vehicles. The hub will include bike racks, scooter parking, car share parking and a meeting spot for Uber/Lyft or a future shuttle. The “Flight Ride” art installation will be repurposed as a meeting spot or waiting area. Generous sidewalks will provide safe pedestrian access on all sides and within the center.

The LRA consulted with Transportation Solutions, an area Transportation Management Association, with design by Norris Design and construction by Kelmore Development in collaboration with Confluent Development.

About the Lowry Redevelopment Authority

The Lowry Redevelopment Authority is a quasi-governmental entity created in 1994 by the cities of Denver and Aurora to redevelop the former Lowry Air Force. The LRA is the master developer of Lowry, with responsibility for land planning, engineering, parks construction and sale of property to residential and commercial developers. Today, Lowry is one of Denver's premier neighborhoods and a national model of sustainable development. More than 25,000 people live, work, play and go to school there.

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