

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Two-way Vision for 4th Ave N: Reviving legacy, igniting progress, and reconnecting neighborhoods

The 4th Avenue North project will reinstate the one-way corridor back into its original two-way configuration, reviving the access and connectivity that helped the community thrive prior to its conversion into a one-way street during the 1970s. Spanning a length of 1.4 miles this corridor traverses from 9th St N through downtown, culminating at the U.S. Post Office on 24th St N.

PROJECT HISTORY

Throughout this corridor are neighborhoods with unique identities – each of which has grappled with economic challenges following the construction of I-65 and the conversion of 4th Ave N into a one-way street. This transformation prioritized vehicular movement at unsafe speeds, resulting in safety issues, limited access to essential resources and job opportunities, and a decline in community investments.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Designed as a true embodiment of Complete Streets principles, this 15-block multimodal project will incorporate transit, on-street parking, protected bike lanes, streetscape elements, and ADA compliant sidewalks and intersections. The project encompasses the Historic 4th Avenue Business District, a once-thriving hub of black businesses and community in Birmingham. This people-centered

project will prioritize accessibility for residents of the underserved and underinvested corridor neighborhoods, and improve safety by reducing vehicle speeds and crashes. Additionally, the project envisions creating a welcoming public space that will help contribute to the economic resurgence of Birmingham’s historic Black Main Street through place-based and equitable economic development.

The core objective is to revitalize the historical significance of the area as a vibrant black community - facilitating access to key destinations and integrating climate-resilient features for a contemporary livable community.

PROJECT IMPORTANCE

Situated entirely within a disadvantaged community, the project area is marked by high rates of diabetes, poverty, unemployment, vehicle pollution, and a notable lack of green spaces. If funds are awarded, the 4th Avenue North project will foster a healthier community with new connections to public transit, employment opportunities, green spaces, and public health resources in historically marginalized and low-income communities of color.



The Carver Theatre for the Performing Arts, home to the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, at the corner of two one-way streets

PROJECT GOALS



Create a safe street for all ages and abilities that moves away from an auto-oriented corridor and encourages environmentally-friendly multi-modal transportation options



Reconnect neighborhoods to improve access to jobs, nature, school, groceries, and each other



Motivate reinvestment in a once thriving and culturally-rich area that is now a disadvantaged and low-income community





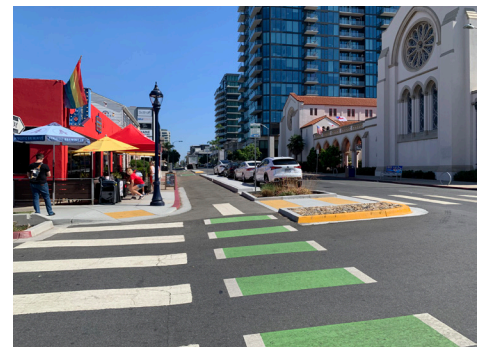
Project Corridor (identified by red line): 4th Ave N from 9th St N to 24th St N



Unsignalized intersection featuring protective buffers for pedestrians and bicyclists (San Diego, CA)



Floating bus islands allows for safer and more efficient boarding and alighting (Denver, CO)



Parking serves as a protective buffer from traffic for bicyclists and pedestrians (San Diego, CA)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Improves public health and economic investment by reconnecting neighborhoods divided by the construction of I-65 and the original conversion of 4th Avenue N into a one-way street



Conversion of a one-way corridor aimed at moving traffic quickly into a two-way street that encourages safer traffic, access to local businesses, and a liveable community



Sustainable improvements for an environmental-friendly and climate-resilient community



PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST