

Delridge Neighborhood Greenway | 26th Ave SW Proposed Diverters

Outreach Summary



November 2020



PROJECT OVERVIEW

As part of the Delridge RapidRide H Line project, the existing bike lanes on Delridge Way SW will be removed. The final project will include a southbound bike lane on Delridge Way SW, but there will be no northbound bike facilities on the road. People who previously biked on Delridge Way SW will be accommodated by the Delridge Neighborhood Greenway, parallel to Delridge Way SW. This Greenway is being updated to support additional bike traffic and improve safety along the corridor.

Additionally, SDOT was [issued a proviso](#) (legal tool that places conditions on an agreement) by the Seattle City Council on February 21, 2020. This proviso required SDOT to provide a detailed report and response to Council about several Delridge Way SW project components, one of which included bike facilities. As a response, SDOT committed to making upgrades to parallel neighborhood greenway facilities and improve connections between Delridge Way SW and the neighborhood greenways.

Ultimately, SDOT decided to use diverters at SW Brandon St and SW Genesee St on 26th Ave SW as a way to improve safety. A traffic diverter is made up of a curb and post that is designed to separate vehicle and

bicycle traffic. The goal of the diverters along 26th Ave SW was to decrease cut-through traffic along the street and keep people walking, biking, and rolling safely.

As we started public notification for installation on the diverters, we heard from many community members that they wanted to keep the current access they had at these two intersections, while the diverters restricted some turning movements. In response, we paused installation of the diverters to continue the conversation about how we can work together to make 26th Ave SW safer for people walking and biking.

Our design team then developed two additional concepts to share with the community for a total of three concepts:

- 1) Original Traffic Diverter (*allows only for right turns in and out*)
- 2) Modified Traffic Diverter (*allows only for existing off 26th Ave SW*)
- 3) Stay Healthy Street (*local traffic only*)

The three concepts were shared with the community through the outreach process, described in the next sections.

OUTREACH OVERVIEW

In fall 2020, we heard from the community through emails, phone calls, a survey, and a public meeting. This input is being used to inform the decision about which type of safety treatment SDOT will build at the two intersections of SW Brandon St and SW Genesee St on 26th Ave SW.

Our outreach strategy included informing the community about the project background, providing an in-depth look into safety concepts, and collecting input on the proposed concepts.

In light of COVID-19, outreach was limited to virtual and did not include any in-person components. Outreach included online presentations, a public meeting, website updates, email updates, and an online survey.



BY THE NUMBERS

The table below outlines outreach activities completed as part of the proposed diverter outreach.

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
7.23.20	Flyering	Outreach team dropped off flyers at home near the two intersections. The flyers described the planned diverters and provided the construction timeline.
7.28.20	Email	Notified neighbors that SDOT would be halting construction of diverters.
9.18.2020 and 9.25.2020	Email Web update	Notified neighbors of upcoming community meeting to review proposed options of diverters.
10.7.2020	Public meeting	informing the community about the project background, providing an in-depth look into safety concepts, and collecting input on the proposed concepts.
9.25.2020 – 10.15.2020	Survey	Gathering community’s level of satisfaction with the proposed concepts.

From July 23 – November 1, 2020:



5
CALLS RECEIVED



36
EMAILS RECEIVED



32
PUBLIC MEETING PARTICIPANTS



293
SURVEYS COMPLETED

PUBLIC MEETING

We held a public meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. There were 32 community members who attended the public meeting.

Madison Linkenmeyer provided background information and described the two diverter options. Summer Jawson then described the Stay Healthy Street option. After the 10-minute presentation, Madison facilitated comments, as well as question and answer.

Meeting Highlights:

- 13 people had questions or comments. Of these 46% were negative toward SDOT doing any work at the two intersections, 31% were neutral, and 23% were positive. Negative responses were those where the attendee had something specific to say against one of the proposed options, neutral were comments that were irrelevant or people who didn't lean for or against, and positive responses were those in which an attendee specifically endorsed one option.
- A common concern with most attendees was that installing traffic reduction measures on 26th Ave SW would only drive traffic to 25th Ave SW, a narrower street.
- There were also concerns about parking for the Delridge playfield being removed with all of the options.
- A few attendees expressed that they did not see the need for any traffic reduction measure and did not understand what went into deciding this project needed to occur.
- Some attendees suggested alternate solutions. Multiple people liked the idea of a traffic circle at SW Genesee St and 26th Ave SW. Two people suggested rapid flashing beacons at the same intersection.

ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was open from September 25 – October 15, 2020. We asked the community to share their connection to the project area, rate their level of satisfaction with each of the three concepts SDOT proposed, and share anything else they'd like SDOT to know about the two intersections. The survey received 293 total responses and 147 comments.

Survey highlights

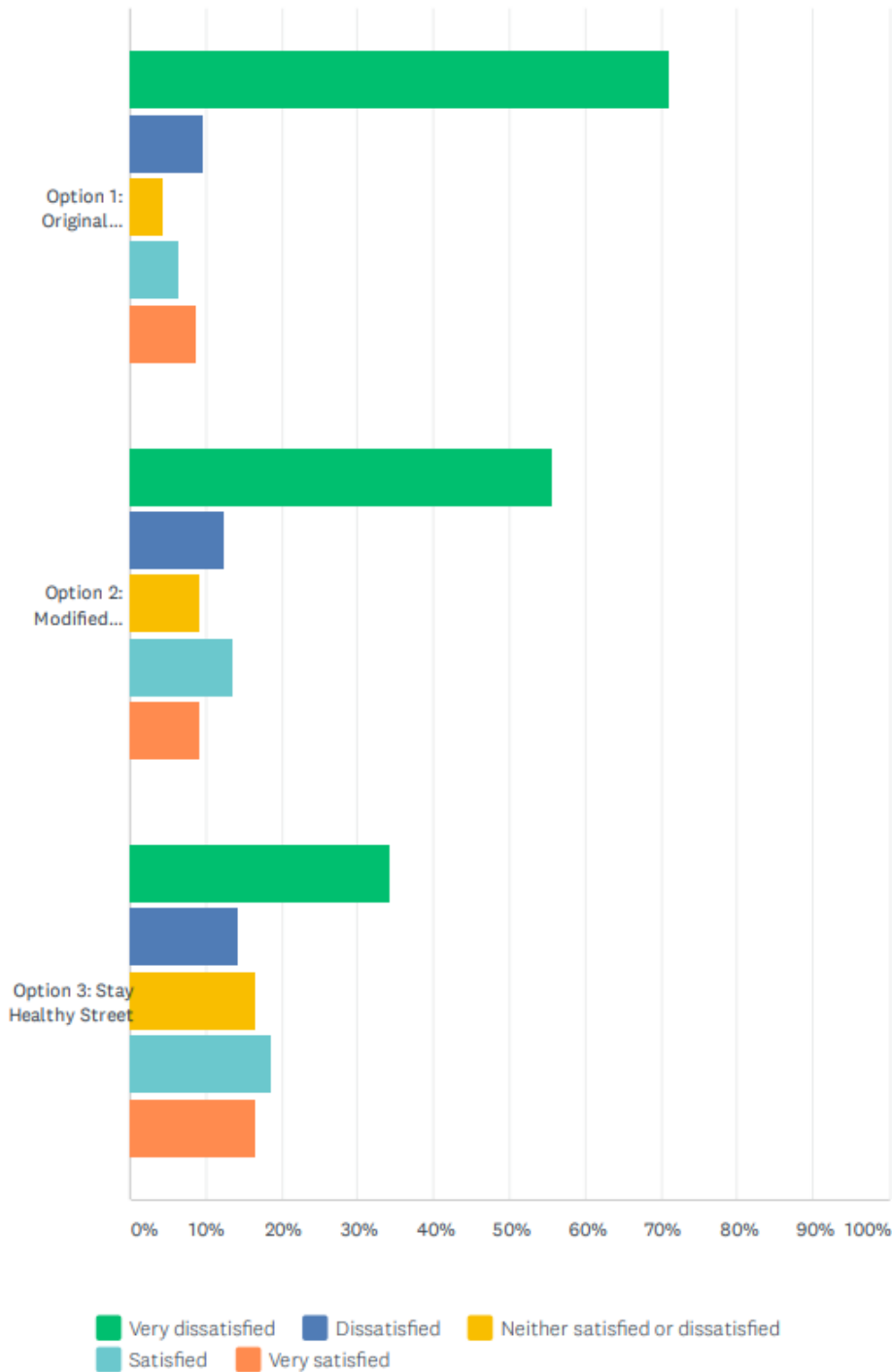
- 87.37% of survey respondents answered that they live near the route.
- Majority of survey respondents were either *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* with all proposed concepts.
- More than half of all survey respondents said they were *very dissatisfied* with both proposed diverter options. Approximately one third of survey respondents said they were *very dissatisfied* with the Stay Healthy Street option.
- At the 26th Ave SW and SW Brandon St intersection, there was slightly less dissatisfaction of diverters.
- The Stay Healthy Street option at each intersection received the highest level of satisfaction with approximately one third of survey respondents stating they were either *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with a Stay Healthy Street.

(survey overview continued on next page)

- Of the 293 survey responders around 50% chose to comment. Of these comments 47% were negative toward SDOT doing any work at the two intersections, 37% were neutral, and 16% were positive. Negative comments were those specifically against one or more of the three recommended solutions, positive were comments in favor of one of the solutions, and neutral encompassed comments that either said no changes, were irrelevant to the diverter issue, or offered up other solutions.
- Of the positive responses, 25 people liked (or said they would settle with) the Stay Healthy Streets, 12 liked the modified diverters, and only four endorsed the original diverter plan.
- The biggest reasons against options one and two (diverters and modified diverters) was inconvenience to the people that lived there and over 10 people mentioned that reducing traffic on 26th Ave SW will just divert traffic to 25th Ave SW, a narrower street, and not actually fix the traffic problem in the area.
- Some alternative suggestions offered by multiple people in the comments:
 - Change light times to be shorter at Brandon and Delridge to prevent people from taking 26th Ave SW to cut through
 - Install either a traffic circle or 4-way stop at Genesee and 26th Ave SW
 - Only implement part of a Stay Healthy Street on 26th Ave SW
- As indicated in both the multiple-choice response and the comments, the most favorable solution is the Stay Healthy Street. There were, however, many people concerned about the effectiveness of this solution as well as the durability and longevity.
- The solution most people wanted was to keep things the way that they are as demonstrated by the high percent of neutral and negative comments

Q2 Please rate your level of satisfaction with each safety option at the intersection of 26th Ave SW and SW Genesee St.

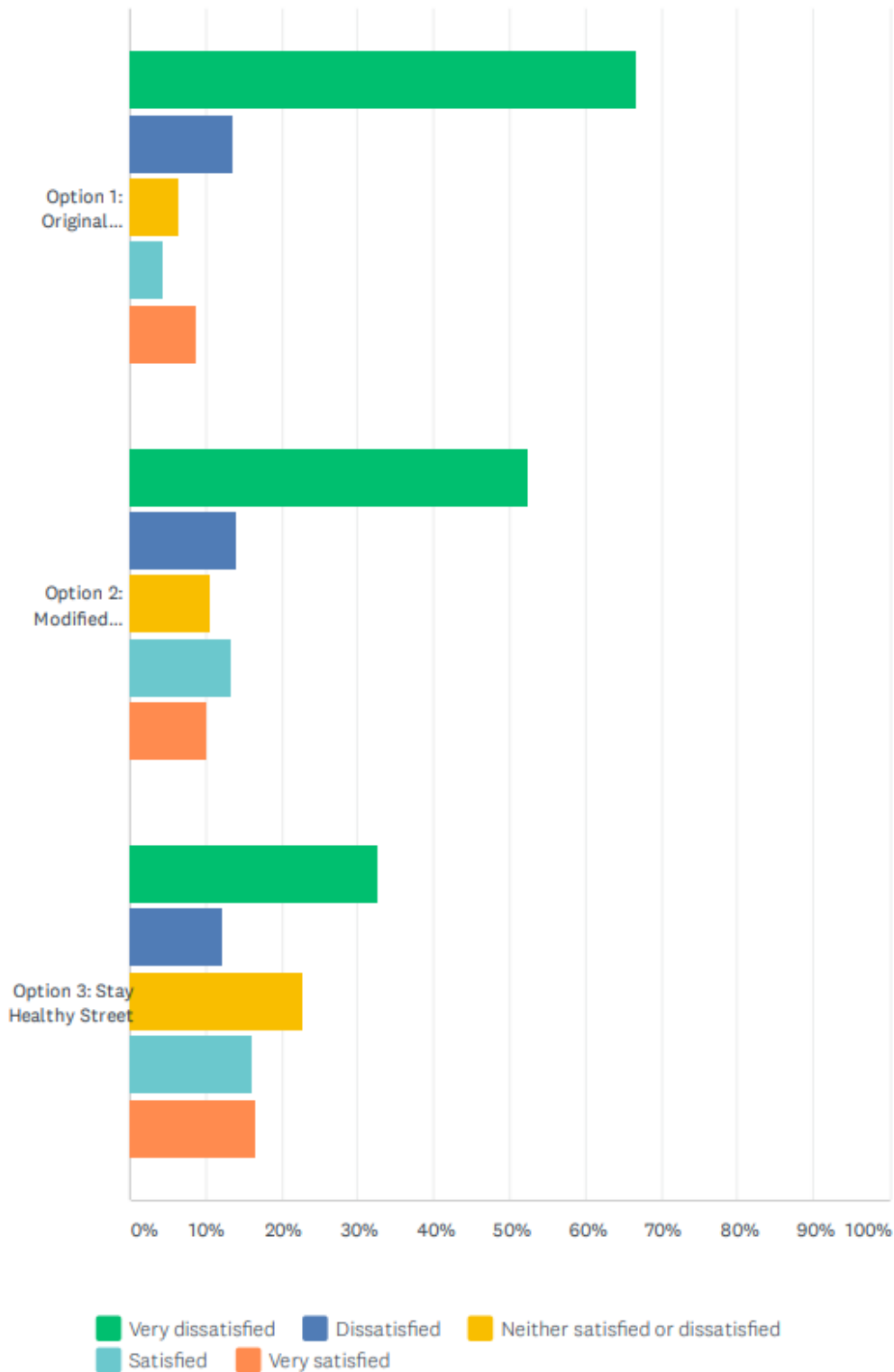
Answered: 232 Skipped: 61



	VERY DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED	SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Option 1: Original Traffic Diverter	70.87% 163	9.57% 22	4.35% 10	6.52% 15	8.70% 20	230
Option 2: Modified Traffic Diverter	55.70% 127	12.28% 28	9.21% 21	13.60% 31	9.21% 21	228
Option 3: Stay Healthy Street	34.20% 79	14.29% 33	16.45% 38	18.61% 43	16.45% 38	231

Q3 Please rate your level of satisfaction with each safety option at the intersection of 26th Ave SW and SW Brandon St.

Answered: 231 Skipped: 62



	VERY DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	NEITHER SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED	SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Option 1: Original Traffic Diverter	66.67% 152	13.60% 31	6.58% 15	4.39% 10	8.77% 20	228
Option 2: Modified Traffic Diverter	52.40% 120	13.97% 32	10.48% 24	13.10% 30	10.04% 23	229
Option 3: Stay Healthy Street	32.61% 75	12.17% 28	22.61% 52	16.09% 37	16.52% 38	230