



**Welcome!**

**Please find a seat at the table  
corresponding to the number you  
were given at registration.**



# Building a Safe and Vibrant Penn Avenue in the Strip District

**Date: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Location: The Original Pittsburgh Winery**

# Safety Overview

- **Location of exits**
- **First Aid Locations**
  - **AED location if available**
- **Presence of someone CPR Certified**
- **Emergency Contact**
  - **In the event of an emergency, Jan Raether, will call 9-1-1**

# Tonight's Objectives

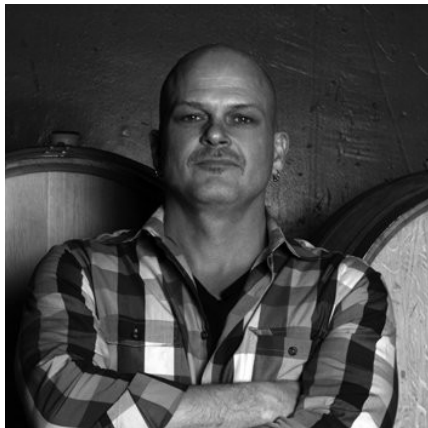
- Strip District residents, businesses, visitors and commuters leave understanding **crash data** that compels us to act
- Strip District residents, businesses, and visitors **come together** to collectively discuss how Penn Avenue can safely accommodate all who love it
- Mayor Gainey and City staff leave understanding **community input** to inform final designs for Penn Avenue Rightsizing

# Tonight's Engagement Format

- **Get to know fellow Strip District lovers**
- **Community Polls**
  - **Have your smartphone ready!**
- **Small Group Discussions and Report Outs**
- **Submit written comments at your table**

# Welcome Remarks

- **Tim Gaber, Original Pittsburgh Winery**
- **Jimmy Coen, Strip District Business Association**
- **Pamela Austin, Strip District Neighbors**
- **Bobby Wilson, Councilman, District 1**





# Community Poll

# WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRIP DISTRICT?

- I live in the Strip District.
- I own a business in the Strip District.
- I shop in the Strip District.
- I commute through the Strip District.
- I work in the Strip District.

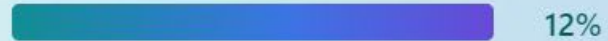


# WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRIP DISTRICT?

191 responses submitted

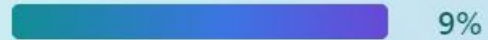
Please share more about your relationship with the Strip District:

I live in the Strip District.



12%

I own a business in the Strip District.



9%

I shop in the Strip District.



33%

I commute through the Strip District.



26%

I work in the Strip District.



11%

Other



6%

# Community Agreements

- **Physical and psychological safety**
- **Listen to learn**
- **Disagree respectfully**
- **Celebrate Strip District's unique composition**
- **Be open to new ideas and new people**
- **Be present and participate**



# **Mayor's Remarks**

*Mayor Ed Gainey*

# Tonight's Presentation

- **Vision Zero Context**
- **Let's Talk about the Data**
- **Penn Avenue Rightsizing**
- **What We've Heard from You (So Far)**



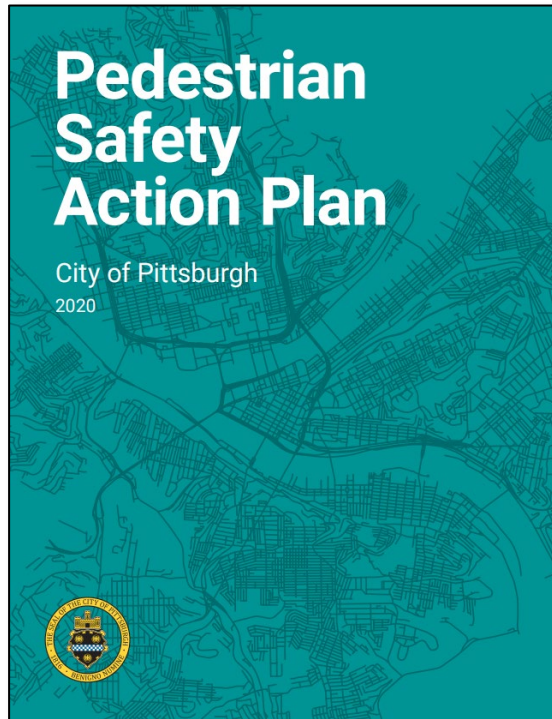
# Committing to Vision Zero

Vision Zero is not just about ending serious injury and fatalities on our streets, it's about our City becoming more livable.

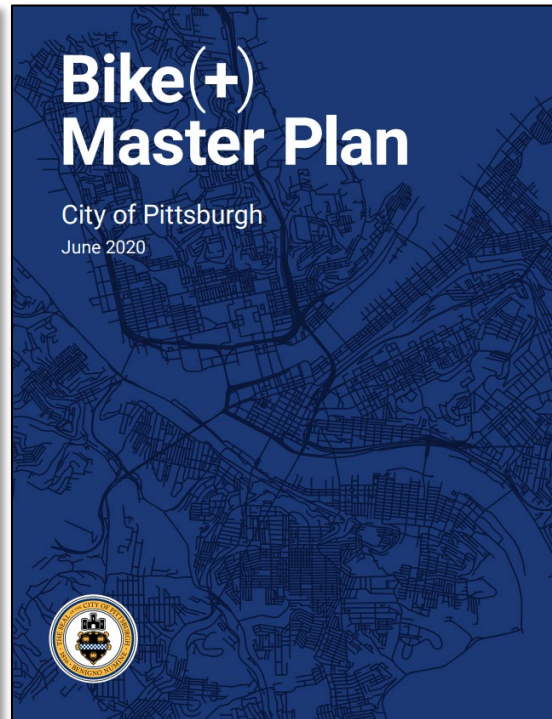




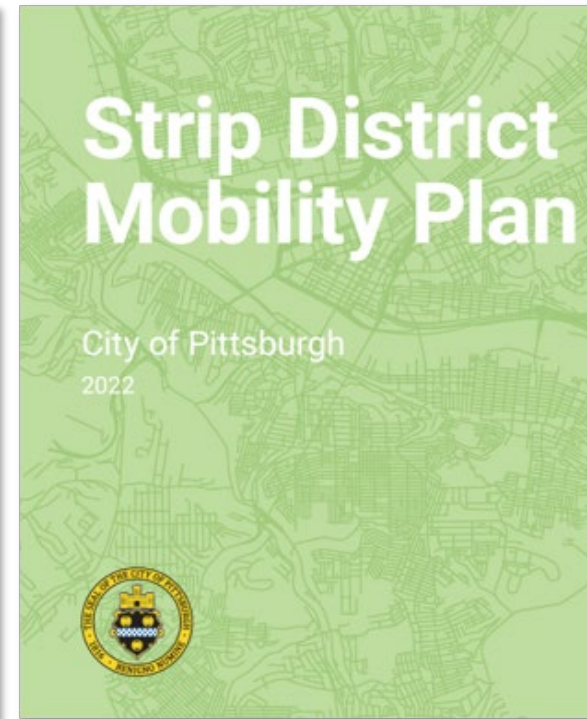
# Foundational Planning Documents



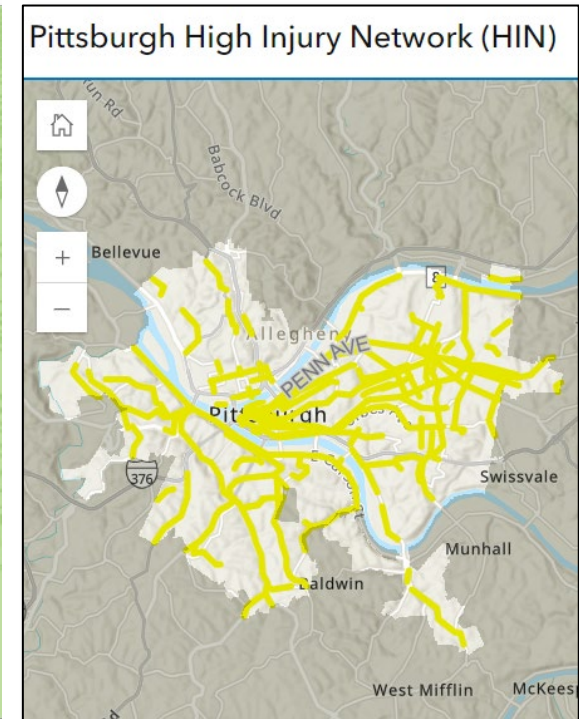
Date: 2020  
[PSAP Link](#)



Date: June 2020  
[Bike\(+\) Link](#)



Date: 2022  
[Mobility Plan](#)



Date: March 2024  
[Web map Link](#)

# Fatal Crash Trends - Citywide

Fatal Crashes are increasing at every level across the country, and Pittsburgh is no different.

21

Fatal Crashes in 2023<sup>†</sup>

7

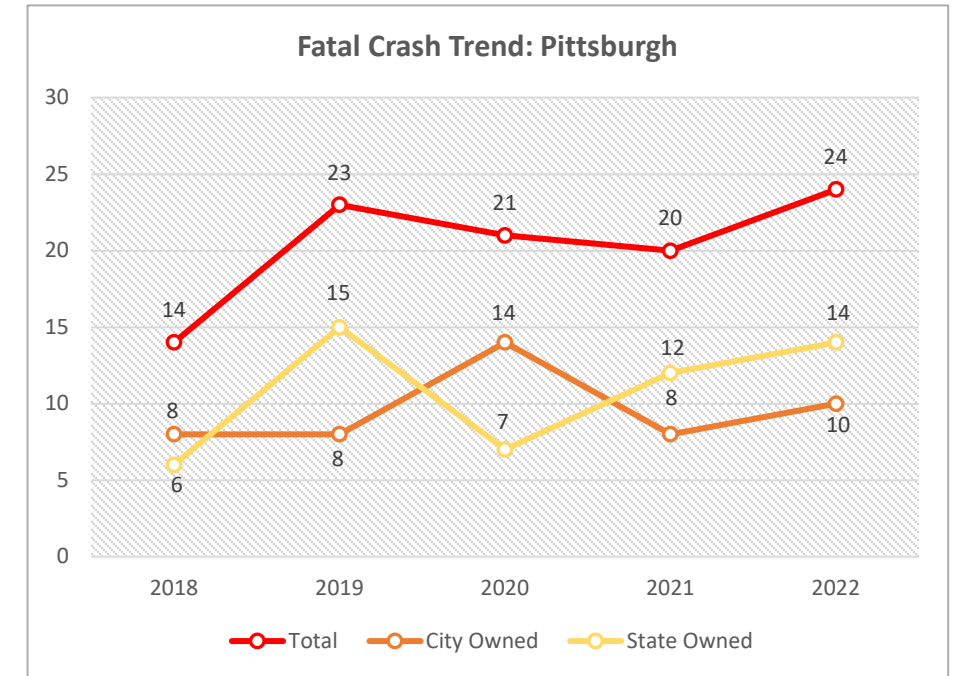
Fatal Pedestrian Crashes in 2023<sup>†</sup>

71%

Increase in fatal crashes<sub>§</sub>

9

Fatal Crashes in 2024  
(Through April 25th)



<sup>†</sup> Fatal crashes investigated by the PBP in 2023

<sub>§</sub> Between 2018 – 2022



# Vulnerable Road User Crashes are up Post-COVID

**29%** Pedestrian Crashes

**39%** VRU Crashes

**110%** Bicycle Crashes

Likelihood of death for people walking if hit at these speeds

Source: AAA Foundation, Tefft, B.C. (2011)

**20**  
MPH

**8%**



**30**  
MPH

**20%**



**40**  
MPH

**46%**





# Penn Avenue Crash Data

Penn Ave has a **disproportionally** high number of injury crashes even compare to other streets on the HIN

Corridor	AADT	Total Crashes	Injury Crash
Penn Ave	4,500	82	30
Smallman St	7,500	24	5
Butler St Central Lawrenceville	12,000	55	25

PROJECT AREA 22nd – 31st Sts



2017 – 2021  
PCIT Data



# Community Poll



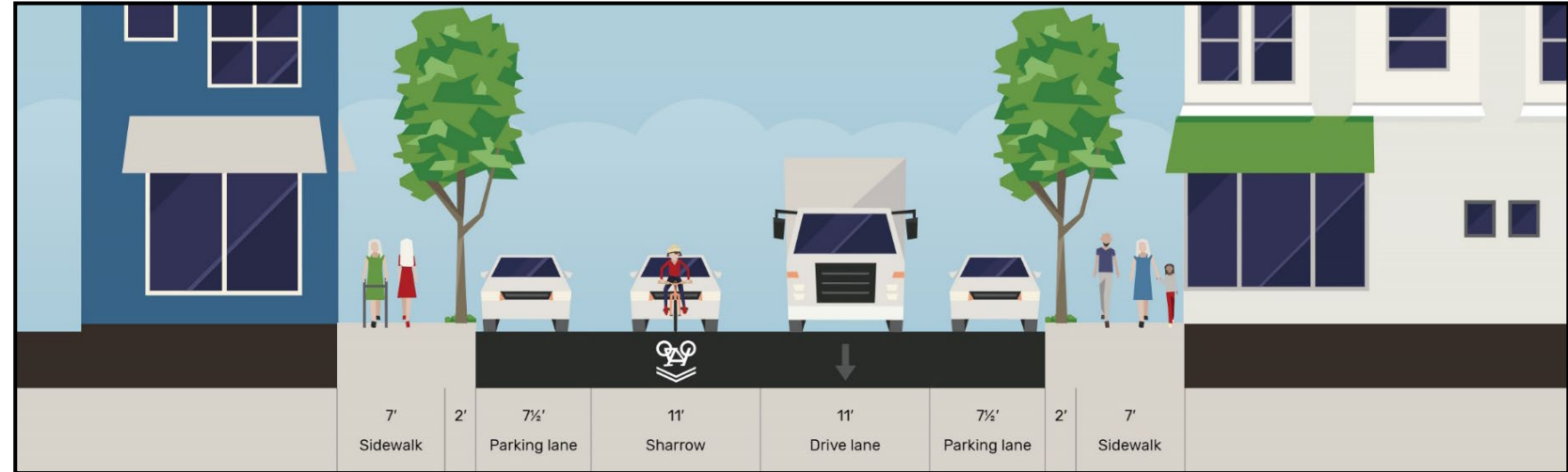


# Rightsizing Penn Ave from 31<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>

## EXISTING

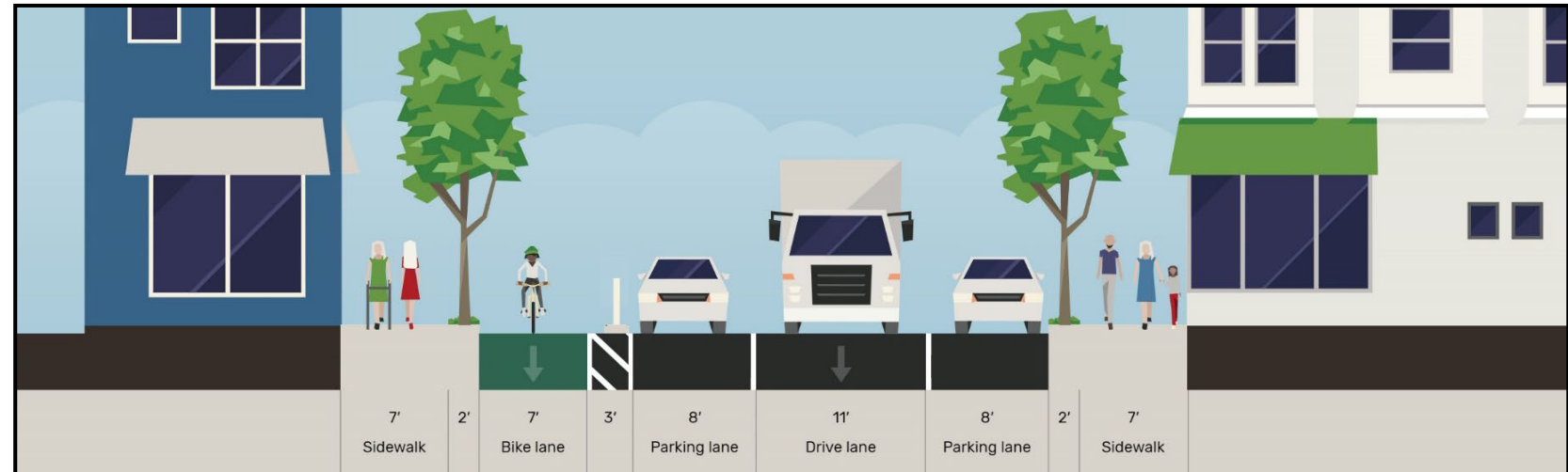
- High speed traffic
- 2 travel lanes
- 2 parking/loading lanes
- Cars and bikes share road

**Rightsizing treatments have been proven to reduce all crashes by 19-47%.**



## RIGHTSIZED

- Slower traffic
- 1 travel lane
- 2 parking/loading lanes
- Separate, parking protected bike lane



**MINIMAL PARKING AND LOADING CHANGES!!**

# What does this look like?

## Parking Protected Bike Lane

- Bike lane at the curb
- Buffer between parking lane and bike lane with vertical protection
- Delineated parking lane



Brighton Rd.

## Rightsizing

- Reduce travel lanes from 2 to 1
- Uses reserved space for other modes



Negley Run Blvd.



# You asked about...

- **Parking changes?**
  - Minimal!
- **Loading zone changes?**
  - Existing loading zones will be preserved, and some may be increased
- **Why no lane removal below 22nd?**
  - Crashes below 22nd are lower speed
- **Future changes below 22nd Street?**
  - Traffic light project to come



# You asked about...

- **Traffic light changes?**
  - Coming to the corridor in 2026/27
- **Are changes permanent?**
  - Quick build materials allow us to adapt as needed until the Penn Ave Signals project
- **What about turning trucks?**
  - DOMI models all turning movements as part of final design
- **Outbound bike lane?**
  - On Smallman in a separate project





# You asked about...

- **Bike connection between 31st and 34th?**
  - Being evaluated as a known gap
- **Public Safety access?**
  - All traffic projects go through a Public Safety review process
- **Congestion?**
  - Traffic data indicates there is excess capacity across the three primary corridors
- **Construction conflicts?**
  - Projects will be coordinated to minimize overlap





# Strip District projects timeline

**Penn Avenue Rightsizing  
(22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Street)**

~2 weeks  
Summer 2025

**Liberty Avenue HSIP**

Late Summer 2025 – Spring 2027

**Smallman Street Complete  
Streets** \* *Exact timeline TBD*

\*Several Months 25-26

**Penn Avenue Signals**

2026 – 2027, limited overlap  
with HSIP

2025

2026

2027



# Community Poll

# Where do we need to conduct more education and engagement?

- Loading & Parking Impacts from 22nd to 31st Streets
- Traffic Volume & Routing
- Bicycle Network Connectivity
- Pedestrian Safety
- Traffic Safety
- Coordination with other Strip District projects
- Other

# Where do we need to conduct more education and engagement?



# Next Steps

- Continue 1:1 engagements with businesses
- Compile feedback
- Reconvene on final designs before construction



# Group Discussion

## Report Out in 15 Minutes

- Citywide, the Strip District is one of our most widely shared spaces. Businesses, their customers, residents and commuters are coming together from all over the region. What can a Penn Avenue that safely ***serves all of us*** look like?
- What ***most excites you*** about the proposed rightsizing project?
- What ***most concerns you*** about the proposed rightsizing project?
- How can we leverage upcoming traffic safety improvements to think about ***other opportunities*** for the Strip District?

# Community Agreements

- **Physical and psychological safety**
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- **Disagree respectfully**
- **Celebrate Strip District's unique composition**
- **Be open to new ideas and new people**
- **Be present and participate**



# THANK YOU!

**Stay in Touch!**

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**Jan.Raether@pittsburghpa.gov**

**Follow this project:**

**[bit.ly/pennavestrip](https://bit.ly/pennavestrip)**

