

Lortz Lane Pedestrian Path & Outdoor Dining Feedback Response

Key Terms	
We =	Planning Team: 4th District Council Office, Department of Planning, Department of Transportation, Govans Elementary School, Loyola University Maryland, York Road Partnership
DOP =	Department of Planning
DOT =	Department of Transportation

Communication	Feedback	# Responses/Priority	Response
Email	Fully close Lortz for multipurpose use or keep open to vehicular traffic (all or nothing approach)	3	After the January meeting and during the February temporary closure, members of the planning team consulted with stakeholders, designers, and adjacent property owners to explore the option of utilizing Lortz Lane as a total pedestrian thoroughfare with outdoor seating, additional vendors, and site activation like live music or events. In the long term, we propose pursuing a multi-phase maximum pedestrian activation of Lortz Lane, with events that include vendors who coordinate and complement adjacent restaurants. Long-term vision & planning will need involvement and consent from adjacent businesses, willing vendors, management of overall coordination, and stakeholder support. In the short term, the first phase of the project will be partial closure in 2023, with plans for monthly site activation events with vendors and activities to build interest and demonstrate proof of concept for broader use of the Lane and begin to work towards fundraising efforts. One of the main reasons why the site cannot be closed on the Bellona side of Lortz Lane is due to the 24/7 access BGE needs to the substation located at 411 Lortz. In addition, access via Bellona is also needed for dumpster and delivery access. Heritage and customers also appreciate access to their parking lot.

Community Meeting	Explore opportunity for both car usage and outdoor dining/pathway	3	Woonerf idea for joint pedestrian and car usage would require cobblestone-type resurfacing of the alley and more financial resources than are available for this effort, so it is not feasible. The lane measures 15 feet across. A driving lane of 10 feet with a pedestrian access route of 5 feet is possible, but not recommended by designers or the Department of Transportation. 10 ft is a narrow drive lane and if the drive lane were any larger, that would impede the pedestrian route and prevent ADA accessibility.
Community Meeting	Idea: Hopscotch and interactive opportunities for the kids	3	This has been shared with the contracted design team, Graham Projects LLC.
Community Meeting	Remove time restriction signs turning into Homeland on Bellona/St. Dunstons and Spring Lake	3	This change has been recommended to Department of Transportation. Due to previous conversations with Homeland, DOT is hesitant to remove signage without demonstrated community support because the signs were put in place to prevent utilizing the street as a cut through. If this is still a want, Planning can work with Homeland Association to draft a letter formally asking for removal or change of the signs.
Email	The City should not close off streets/alleys for the benefit of individual businesses	2	In addition to benefitting adjacent businesses, business owners beyond Heritage and Nailah's have expressed interest and support for this project, such as Hex Ferments and Bmore Kitchen. The space being created will be a community area. While the adjacent businesses will be responsible for most of the daily upkeep and maintenance, it will not only benefit the two businesses adjacent, but will be a public space for that area of the corridor to enjoy. There are currently no outdoor dining options except outside of Noir and Angelis at this time, which is only reserved for use for patrons from those businesses. In addition, a primary motivation for this plan is to provide a safe walking space to Govans Library for Govans Elementary School students.
Community Meeting	Activate space beyond business hours	2	As noted above, we will be pursuing plans to activate this space as much as possible, within vendor availability, in coordination with adjacent property owners, and coordination constraints. Ideas have included a monthly event similar to Belvedere Square's Summer Sounds concert, seasonal events like apple cider and s'mores making, and cultural events highlighting the diversity of the York Road corridor.

Community Meeting	Add food truck/trailers for additional Lane activation and promote eyes on the street	2	This is the type of activation we will pursue, although we do not believe food trucks would be appropriate for this space. We will be exploring other structures without generator emissions. Ideas have ranged from standalone "huts" with water and electric to vendor stalls similar to what is seen at a farmers market.
Community Meeting	Seasonality: What happens in the winter?	2	We are interested in cold-weather activation ideas for this space. There have been seasonal event ideas. This is a concern we can bring up with the Graham Projects design team to see if they have recommendations or experience with other areas. The art and lighting will be in place year-round, making it a pleasant pedestrian experience and work with adjacent property owners. Govans Elementary School students will use it to walk to the library year-round.
Community Meeting	Identify alternate route west to Bellona (ideas: Rosebank, alley adjacent to Govans Presbyterian, Orkney)	2	DOT recommends Lyman Ave. as a short-term alternate route. Sharp right at Bellona Ave. is also possible and will be made easier by longer-term DOT plans. DOT is also evaluating left-turn arrow at Northern Parkway and Bellona. Any changes in one way streets will require a more in depth process with DOT.
Community Meeting	Partial closure does not make lane safer for pedestrians	2	DOT and most stakeholders agree that partial closure will substantially decrease the amount of traffic utilizing the lane overall and the speeds at which vehicles are travelling, making it safer for pedestrians.
Community Meeting	Traffic flow simulations based on real time data and parking	2	DOT completed observations during the pilot period and will report findings at the March 21st meeting.
E-mail	Utilize Bellona Triangle and Lyman Ave as al alternative site	2	Hopefully in the future Bellona will be an additional site for activation and community utilization as outlined and recommended in the York Road Transportation Study (https://streetsofbaltimore.com/york-road-transportation-study) and the York Road Vision and Action Plan (https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/YorkRdCorridorVision%26Action.pdf). The purpose for this project is connection between library and school. Pedestrians will be more likely to take the route that is the shortest between two distances.
Email	Rowdy Patrons	2	Adjacent businesses will be responsible for oversight. As with any public space, anyone is able to alert authorities to any innappropriate behavior. Heritage is open until 9pm and Nailah's does not serve alcohol.

Email	Dumpster access	2	Trash pick up will be accessible via Bellona Avenue. Heritage and Nailah's are in conversation to share a dumpster service or co-locate dumpsters.
Community Meeting	Need safety measures (lighting and/or surveillance)	2	There is currently \$10,000 allotted for lighting for this project. In addition, the City is urging BGE to add lighting and a camera for its portion of the property.
Email	Access for fire department and police department	1	BCFD has not responded with any concerns. BCPD will be notified of the timeline for closure. While the BCPD do not have jurisdiction over the decision, it is courtesy to let them know of any changes.
Email	Increased trash	1	Property owners have noted there is actually less trash on Lortz during the pilot closure. Once car traffic was allowed to travel on Lortz after the temporary pilot was complete, trash began to increase again according to the owner of Heritage. Maintenance of the site is currently and will be the responsibility of the adjacent owners. George & staff from Heritage picks up trash on Lortz Lane daily.
Email	Loitering	1	The purpose of the site is to be utilized. This site will be considered a community parklet. As with other community parks, relaxing, meeting up with friends, or spending time with family is not considered loitering. However, as with any other community space, if inappropriate or criminal behavior is occurring, proper authorities should be alerted.
Email	Impacts to parking	1	If there is partial closure of Lortz, parking for Heritage will still be accessible via Bellona Avenue. Nailah's also utilizes the Dollar General for additional parking for parties. Substantial on-street parking is available on Bellona Ave. and York Road. Additionally, with long term reconfigurations of space on York Road, this will increase protected street parking available on the commercial corridor.
Email	Impacts to bus stop	1	There will be no change to the bus stop locations.
Email	Impact to BGE substation	1	DOT and DOP are currently in conversation with BGE about access needs to the substation.
Email	Impact to restaurant deliveries	1	Deliveries to the commercial properties will still be available via Bellona Avenue. Nailah's takes deliveries from York Road.

Email	Jaywalking	1	DOT made improvements to the pedestrian signal to extend the time allowed for pedestrians to cross the street. It is very difficult to cross York Road at that area without utilizing the pedestrian signal.
Email	Actual utilization of the space (will people use the space or would it be better for car traffic?)	1	It's difficult to predict the number of people who will utilize the space based upon current utilization. However, basing utilization only off car traffic is not sufficient. With increased safety measures, outdoor seating, art and placemaking, we are hoping to create a space that people of all ages and backgrounds would like to enjoy. Additionally, as per Baltimore City code, pedestrians are ranked highest in modal heigherarchy.
Email	Build a pedestrian bridge over York Road	1	This is not financially feasible nor possible due to the fact that York Road is a designated state road.
Email	Crash & injury data request	1	DOT will share traffic data at the March 21st meeting. There have been several crashes on either side of Lortz Lane over the past 5 years.
Community Meeting	Timing of pedestrian signal is too short	1	DOT increased the time allowable for pedestrians to cross the street to 28 seconds due to this request.
Community Meeting	Govans needs access to pedestrial signal during emergency management procedures	1	DOT is currently working on this request.
Email	Offer support for permits, alley closure, etc. (Lawyer offering pro-bono support)	1	Thank you!
Community Meeting	Pinch York Road adjacent with pedestrian bump out on either side for easier crossing	1	This is an idea included in the long term study of York Road available at www.streetsofbaltimore.com . DOT is currently working internally to see if flex posts can be added at the cross walk to create a smaller distance for pedestrians.
Community Meeting	Create an intergenerational space, similar to the 26th Street Green	1	This has been shared with the contracted design team, Graham Projects LLC.

Community Meeting	Ensure proper facilities management: Programming of space, general maintenance and upkeep	1	Conversations around oversight and maintenance are in process. If the York Road Business Improvement District is approved, management may fall under this organization. In the short term, since Loyola is funding the project, they will be the partner in the MOU with the City.
Community Meeting	Keep youth at the center of planning, ensure the pathway is available in lieu of deeper focus on outdoor dining	1	Thank you for this feedback. This is central to the goal of the project.
Community Meeting	Questions: What will the theme be? What are the demographics/audience for the space?	1	To be determined through community engagement process. The hope is that the space will be representative of our community while also welcoming visitors.
Community Meeting	Question: What is the budget?	1	\$50,000 total from a federal earmark: \$30,000 for public art installation and \$20,000 for lighting, furniture, and landscaping.
Community Meeting	Comfortable seating wanted.	1	Noted, this has been shared with Graham Projects LLC.
Community Meeting	Use native plants in design to support local nature and wildlife	1	Noted, this has been shared with Graham Projects LLC.
Community Meeting	Include bike amenities	1	Noted, this has been shared with Graham Projects LLC and DOT.
Community Meeting	Include colorful sidewalks	1	Noted, this has been shared with Graham Projects LLC.
Community Meeting	Bellona Avenue and Northern Parkway is not a safe left turn location	1	DOT is evaluating a requests for left-turn arrow onto Bellona at that intersection. We will follow up with DOT Traffic Division on May 8th.
Community Meeting	Idea: lever bars that block traffic during the school day and raise afterschool and on weekends	1	This has not happened on any public project previously in the city, typically this takes place on privately owned property.
Community Meeting	Idea: Model after historic Lutherville	1	Noted, this has been shared with Graham Projects LLC.

Community Meeting	Ideas for theme: history, architecture, intergenerational conversation	1	Noted, this has been shared with Graham Projects LLC.
Community Meeting	Music and outdoor events should be intergenerational and cultural	1	Thank you for your feedback.
Community Meeting	Excited for more opportunities for biking, walking, and sitting outside.	1	Thank you for your feedback.
Community Meeting	Make process as inclusive of the public as possible for the design. Seating should be accessible for all, not just adjacent restaurants.	1	This is the plan being pursued.
Community Meeting	Fabulous idea: improvements should continue south on York Road	1	Thank you for your feedback.
Community Meeting	Conduct comprehensive traffic study of York Road and Bellona	1	Both Bellona and York Road just underwent a comprehensive study last year. York Road study is available on www.streetsofbaltimore.org . Over the past year, a comprehensive look at Bellona has also taken place, resulting in installation of speed bumps and an additional speed camera.
Community Meeting	Support for street closure and activation	1	Thank you for your feedback.
Community Meeting	This will help Heritage Smokehouse be viable and we need good restaurants	1	Thank you for your feedback.
E-mail	If closure will be short term/temporary communication will need to go on restaurant website to show access to parking via Bellona	1	Restaurant owners utilized social media and temporary signage to direct customers to additional parking in the back of the restaurant during the pilot closure.
Email	Have the adjacent property owners been contacted?	1	Yes, all adjacent property owners have been contacted. In order for the project to happen all owners will need to give consent. 3/4 property owners have given consent and conversations with BGE are ongoing.

E-mail	Generally opposed	1	Thank you for your feedback.
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