

Concepts for Rainey Street Improvements

Revised January 29, 2013



- Introduction/Scope Definition
- District Overview
- Rainey Street Challenges
- Infrastructure Solutions
- Resident Concerns
- Next Steps Discussion

Introduction/Scope Definition



- Area of Review:
 - South of Cesar Chavez
 - West of IH-35
 - North of Lady Bird Lake
 - East of the MACC
- Multi-department team engaged:
 - Austin Energy
 - Austin Transportation
 - Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services
 Office
 - Planning & Development Review
 - Public Works
 - Real Estate Services
- Today's objective is to present infrastructure solution options.

Existing Challenges







- Inclusion of Rainey Street in CBD has resulted in proliferation of restaurants and cocktail lounges.
- Improperly managed parking, missing and non-compliant sidewalks, and poor lighting have created safety issues.
- Residents of the district have raised concerns about degradation of access and quality of life.
- Pending private redevelopment requires balance in realizing short and long term benefits of public investment.



Street Lighting

Coordination between PWD and Austin Energy in progress

Code Changes

Lead agency is Planning & Development Review

Parking

Plans have been coordinated with MACC

Infrastructure Improvements

- Work has been coordinated with public safety agencies
- All options to be discussed provide acceptable emergency access

Planned Improvements

Items with General Stakeholder Agreement

- Add/repair sidewalks and bulb-outs as required to achieve ADA compliance.
- Redesign the traffic circle at the intersection of River and Rainey Streets.
- Modify the traffic calming devices on Rainey and Davis.
- Meter the parking at the MACC lot per MACC Board recommendation.
- Implement Parking Management District to finance improvements.
- Improve roadway/pedestrian lighting.
- Add reverse angle parking on East Avenue and meter the parking.

Options for Improvement to Vehicular and Bicycle Circulation

- Preferred: Convert Rainey Street to one-way northbound from River Street to Driskill Street and incorporate a buffered cycle track into the design (similar to Rio Grande). Retain parking on east side of Rainey.
- Alternative: Retain Rainey Street as a two-way street with bike lanes and parking removed from Driskill to River.

Stakeholder Concerns

Emergency Access

 One-way flow has been reviewed with emergency services providers and provides improved access.

Inclusion of Cycle Track

- Rainey Street is part of Bicycle Route 51 as indicated in Council-approved Bicycle Master Plan.
- Cycle track provides safer route.
- Mountable curbs allow for emergency vehicle access.

Traffic Circulation

- Traffic circle at Rainey and River will be improved.
- Two-way access restored to Davis Street.
- Routing of traffic to East Avenue provides multiple circulation options.

Parking

 Retaining parking on Rainey from River to Driskill provides highest number of spaces.

Parking Options

Parking Metered Throughout the District

- Metering promotes turnover.
- Provide limited Residential Permit Parking.
- Net revenue after costs go to neighborhood improvement fund.

Add Pay Stations and Open Parking at the MACC

- Makes ~125 additional spaces available on most nights.
- Net revenue after costs go to MACC programming.

Parking Improvements on East Avenue

- Restripe as reverse angle parking and add pay stations.
- Produces 57 spaces for a net gain of 31 in the District.

Rainey Street

- No change to parking south of River Street.
- One-way option retains 30 spaces on Rainey Street from River to Driskill.

Net Gains

- One-Way Option: 115 Spaces
- Two-Way Option: 85 Spaces

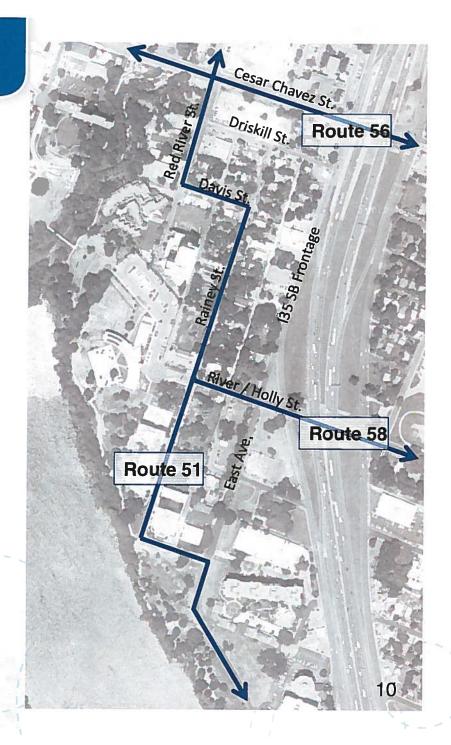
Neighborhood Access – One Way Option

- Lower Rainey access via East Avenue, River Street/Holly Street, and Cummings Street
- Circulation from Red River Street to Davis Street to Rainey Street.
- Access to East Avenue from Driskill Street and Cesar Chavez Street

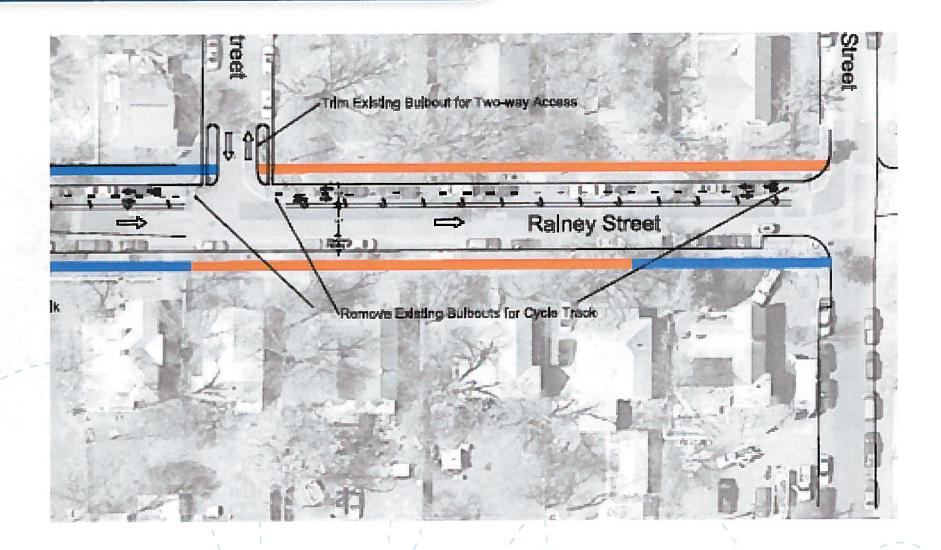


Bicycle Access – Both Options

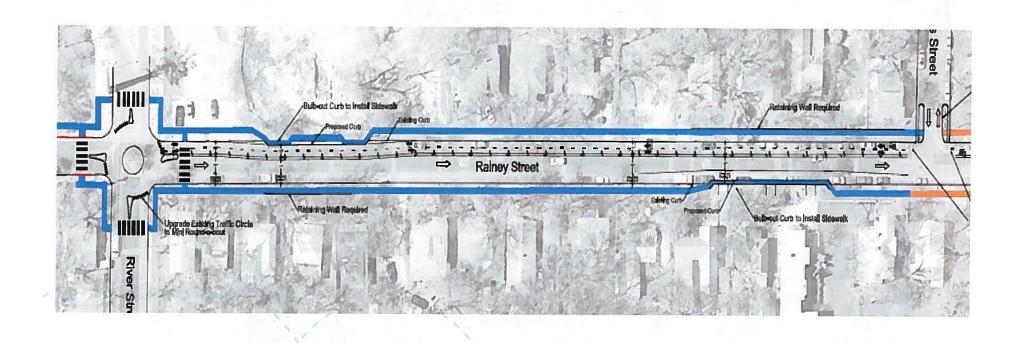
- Connects Routes 51, 56, and 58
- Improved access to LBL
- Safer circulation under IH-35
- Consistent with Counciladopted Bicycle Master Plan



Proposed Plan (Driskill to Davis)



Proposed Plan (Davis to River)

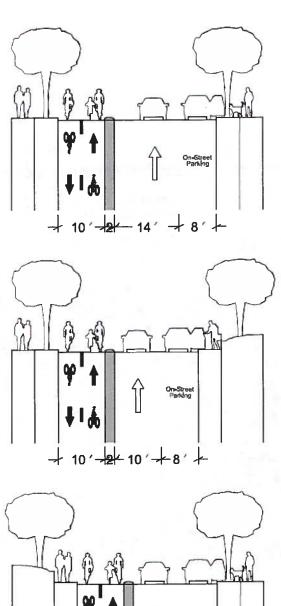


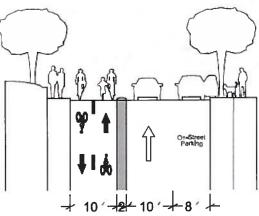
Proposed Cycle Track Cross Sections

One-Way Vehicle Flow

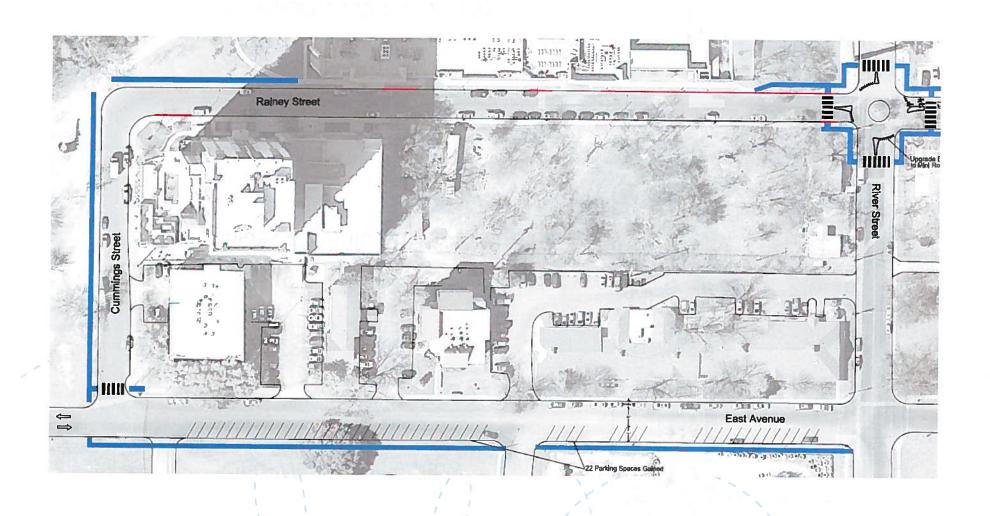
Sidewalk Bulb-out on East Side

Sidewalk Bulb-out on West Side





(Proposed Plan (River to Cummings)



Planned Next Steps

- Immediate Parking
 - Implement parking improvements to East Avenue
 - Install pay stations at the MACC parking lot
 - Install pay stations on Rainey Street
 - Initiate Parking Management District process
 - Initiate limited Residential Parking Permit program
- After SXSW in March 2013
 - Convert Rainey to one-way northbound from River to Driskill
 - Install revised traffic calming features
 - Install cycle track
 - Construct sidewalks and bump-outs