

On October 21, Bike Walk Knoxville staff led a walk exploring the Park City area. We were joined by candidates Karyn Adams (District 1) and Denzel Grant (District 6) as well as several members of City of Knoxville staff representing Vision Zero, Engineering, Parks and Recreation - Greenways, and more. The walk also featured community leaders and advocates. Bike Walk Knoxville would like to thank everyone who came out to walk with us for sharing their expertise and listening to community concerns!

The tour began at the John T. O'Connor Senior Center, and stopped at the intersection of Fifth and Jessamine to discuss a quick-build project being implemented there to improve safety. The project falls under the City's Vision Zero efforts, which seeks to eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries on Knoxville's streets by 2040. At this intersection, vehicular lanes have been slightly narrow to accommodate bike lanes, and improvements are being made to the pedestrian crossings. Not only does this allow for cyclist facilities, but the lane width also helps encourage drivers to travel at safer speeds. Quick-build projects like this one emphasize low-cost, easy-to-implement solutions to safety and accessibility needs!

From there, we continued up to Magnolia Avenue. The group highlighted the improvements from the streetscape project, including wide sidewalks with amenities like benches, bike parking, and covered bus stops. The discussion also acknowledged challenges the area still faces, specifically with dangerously high vehicular speeds next to an unprotected bike lane. The tour also provided insight into upcoming projects further down Magnolia Avenue, which will be funded by a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. This project will improve the intersections at Cherry Street, Hembree Street, and Castle Street.

The group walked back along Fifth Avenue, noting the more neighborhood-oriented feel as compared to the state route. Traffic calming in the form of speed humps along the road encourages safe vehicular speeds, and the City will be adding protected bike facilities along Winona Street to improve cyclist connectivity. The group also highlighted the multi-family housing along the street, which provides gentle density without disturbing neighborhood character, and the murals that add bright colors and joy through public art.

The tour concluded back at the John T. O'Connor Senior Center, and was followed by a Pint Night fundraiser at Last Days of Autumn Brewing, where participants had the opportunity to discuss and connect. Bike Walk Knoxville would like to thank Last Days of Autumn Brewing for their generous support, as well as all the local stakeholders, candidates, and community members for joining us for the walking tour. We hope these events can continue to advocate for positive changes in policy, funding, and infrastructure to improve safety for folks of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds who love to bike and walk.