

19th and 20th Complete Streets Corridor Study Kickoff Meeting
January 12, 2021

Meeting Purpose: For the project team to present to stakeholders relevant context from previous planning efforts, the study area, and existing conditions. In addition, to understand the transit related concerns of the stakeholders along the corridor.

Summary: This meeting was held virtually on 1/12/2021 at 12:00 PM. The Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (oTIS) and The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) presented slides detailing the scope of the project, including a timeline, the project area, data about the corridor, and other concurrent and pre-existing planning efforts. Participants expressed their top transit related concerns for the corridor via a Zoom Poll, and were given the opportunity to further expand and discuss in three separate breakout rooms. The group then reconvened, and each group shared a few key takeaways from each discussion. The major themes of these conversations are described below.

Breakout Room 1: The primary concerns in Breakout Room 1 were traffic safety (specifically at the Parkway and Logan Circle), curbside loading, and visitor access. The group discussed the importance of maintaining loading at institutions, particularly on the west side of lower 20th Street. The group discussed traffic calming and potential interventions, including stop controls on 19th Street. Speed, turning conflicts, SEPTA legibility, and closures during events were also discussed.

Breakout Room 2: The primary concerns expressed in Breakout Room 2 were traffic safety and curbside loading, specifically the loading issues on 19th Street. One member expressed concern over loading issues on JFK and Cuthbert. Another mentioned loading needs on 19th Street, specifically where buses load and unload for The Academy. 19th and Cherry has poor stop sign adherence, and there is a school on Cherry with lots of drop-off/pick-up activity. Personal safety and congestion were also concerns mentioned by at least two members of the breakout room.

Breakout Room 3: The primary concerns expressed in Breakout Room 3 involved congestion, access to institutions, and pedestrian access to transit. Members discussed the sudden closures of 19th and 20th Streets during major events and the loss of reliability for all users when these closures occur. Complete streets were also discussed as a priority, making more bicycle friendly routes in the area. In addition, there was a comment stating that if 20th becomes a single lane at the parkway it would create congestion at 20th and the Parkway and impact the entrance to the Barnes Foundation located on 20th street. Loading zones, particularly around schools, were discussed as well, with members asking how could these zones be made more safe?

Recurring Themes in All Groups:

- Loading, particularly institutional loading
- Safety for all users of the street, particularly at intersections
- Events and closures/rerouting legibility