

6th Avenue Bicycle & Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study

Letter of Interest

Agency

City of Lakewood

Description

The City of Lakewood proposes a feasibility study to evaluate the location, community support, and viability of a future grade-separated crossing over the 6th Avenue freeway between Wadsworth and Sheridan Boulevards, likely at, or near Harlan Street. The purpose and goal of this project is to determine how and where a non-motorized crossing can most effectively reconnect neighborhoods divided by the freeway; improve safety for people walking, biking, and rolling; and expand equitable access to destinations. The study will lay the groundwork for a future infrastructure project.

The project will study and analyze three major components:

- Planning-level technical feasibility using GIS and LiDAR data to assess baseline topography conditions around 6th Avenue and identify any conflicting utilities, drainage, and right-of-way.
- Potential crossing locations and conceptual designs (as informed by the technical feasibility and community engagement) to simulate what a future bridge could look like and determine how it would fit into a connected active transportation network.
- Community priorities and pain points to understand where the people most affected by the freeway barrier currently travel, which specific destinations are inaccessible, and which future routes would be align with their needs.

The project will advance planning for a grade-separated bicycle and pedestrian crossing that reconnects residents currently cut off from much of their community, thereby strengthening the region's multimodal transportation network. It will plan for long-term infrastructure that improves safety, expands mobility choices, and supports equitable access for community members that reflect the region's diversity and lived experiences.

The biggest challenge that this study will address is that currently there is no way to cross 7th Avenue freeway between Wadsworth and Sheridan Boulevards, and no safe and direct route for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross 6th Avenue between Garrison and Perry Streets. Residents near Harlan Street must currently detour one to two miles each way to cross the freeway, or risk unsafe crossings on high-speed arterials with long exposure distances and limited protection from fast-moving traffic. These conditions discourage active modes of transportation, limiting access for people without vehicles and reinforcing inequities in nearby Two Creeks and North Alameda neighborhoods, which already face higher transportation, health, and environmental burdens than much of the region.