

Lehigh Avenue (Kensington-Aramingo) Traffic Safety Project Update

3/3/2025



Office of
Multimodal
Planning



Who are we?

Office of Multimodal Planning

A Division of the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (OTIS)

Mission Statement

Whether by bus, by bike, on foot, or by car, the Office of Multimodal Planning is leading innovation and engagement to ensure Philadelphians of all ages and abilities can travel safely.



Agenda

Project Overview & Timeline

Trade-Offs

Focus Intersections

Q&A

Project Overview & Timeline

Crash History, 2019-2023

Lehigh Avenue (Kensington-Aramingo)

107 Crashes


7 Deaths

7 Serious Injuries

243 People Involved

Source: PennDOT





**Vision Zero is dedicated to
eliminating traffic deaths and serious
injuries on Philadelphia streets.**

15th Street at JFK Boulevard, 2023

Timeline

2024

Develop quick-build project
Identify priorities for capital project

2025

PennDOT Quick-Build Improvements
Develop Concept for Capital Project

2026-2027

Engineering & Design*

2028+

Construction*

*Not currently funded



PennDOT Quick-Build Improvements

5th Street to Aramingo Avenue

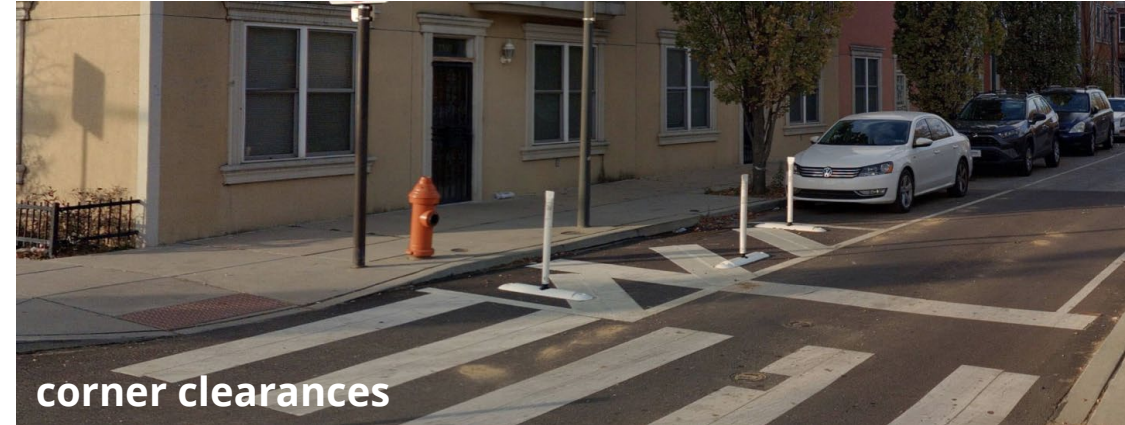
Includes

- Hardened centerlines

- Corner clearances

- Speed slots

Expected Spring 2025



Traffic Safety Capital Project (Kensington-Aramingo)



The City is pursuing grant funding for a project to make **permanent safety improvements** to Lehigh Avenue.



This project could **transform the street** to better serve the needs of the neighborhood.



We want to make sure you have a voice in the process to **identify these needs**.

Phase 1 Engagement Results

What we've heard from the community so far:



Improve
safety
for all road
users



Reduce
reckless
driving



Create
a safe
pedestrian
environment



Separate
bicyclists
from motor
vehicles



Reduce
speeds
and calm
traffic

Value Trade-Offs

Why Tradeoffs?



We're working on a design for the corridor, but we can't do everything that folks asked for in our first round of engagement.



Tradeoff questions help us understand what neighbors prefer when we have to make hard choices.

Value Tradeoffs for Lehigh Avenue:

1. Parking or greening?
2. Traffic flow or safety elements?
3. Lower cost and faster or higher cost and more impact?

Parking or Greening?

Space may be available for either greening (trees, planters) or additional parking.

Parking or Greening?



Traffic Flow or Safety Elements

No matter what, the new design for Lehigh Avenue will improve traffic safety.

But **some traffic safety elements** that were requested — like protected turns and lane reductions — **may create traffic congestion** for vehicles at peak hours.

The key question here – **is it worth it?**

Traffic Safety Elements Affecting Traffic Flow



Lower Cost & Faster or Higher Cost & More Impact

Would you wait longer for a more expensive project that accomplishes more, or would you prefer a faster and cheaper project with less impact?

Lower Cost and Faster



source: City of Minneapolis

Higher Cost and More Impact



source: Green Philly

Focus Intersections

Focus Intersection Ideas

Frankford

Realign Coral Street & Pedestrian Plaza

Remove the Mixing Zone & Add a Bike Signal

Aramingo

Prohibit Low-Volume Left Turns

Add Turn Arrows & Dual Left Turn Lanes

Focus Intersection: Frankford Avenue

Community-informed problems we're trying to solve:

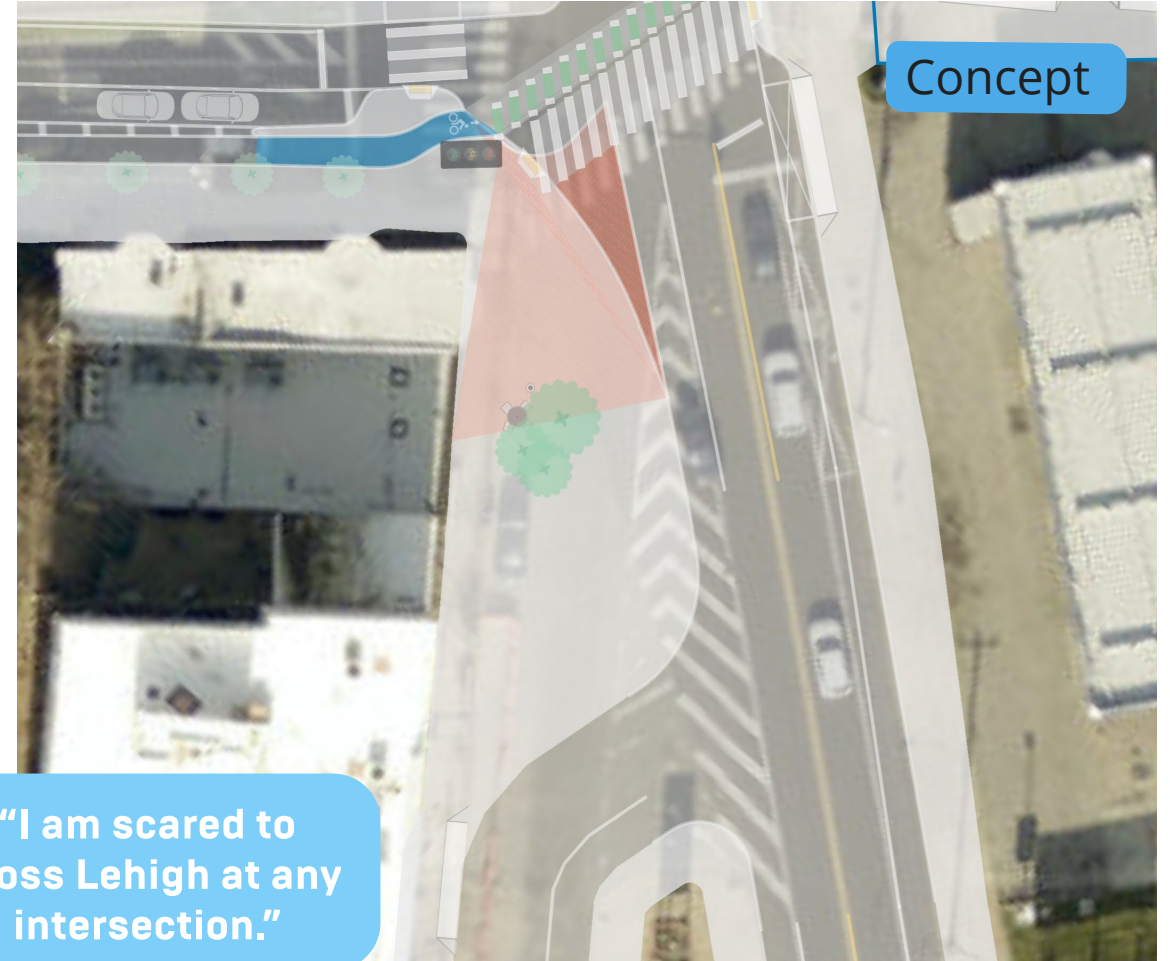
1. Misaligned intersection
2. Awkward Coral Street intersection
3. Long pedestrian crossings
4. Uncomfortable bike mixing zones

Realign Coral Street & Add a Pedestrian Plaza



"...more foot traffic"

source Philadelphia City Planning Commission



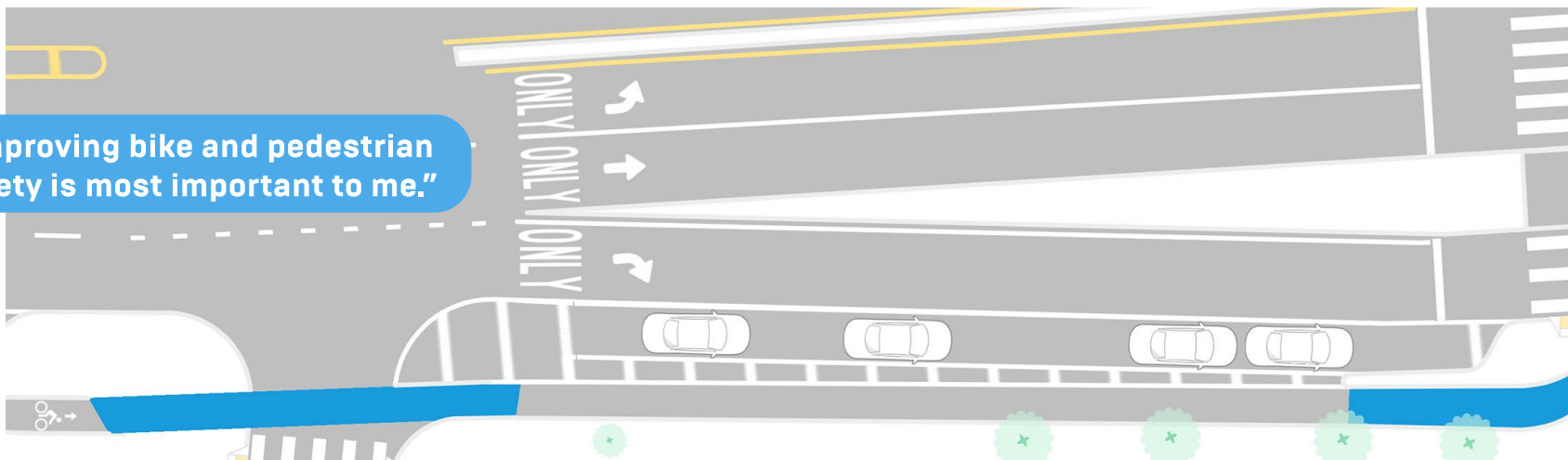
Concept

"I am scared to cross Lehigh at any intersection."

Eliminate the Mixing Zone & Add a Bike Signal



"cars flying into the right turn lane can't see you."



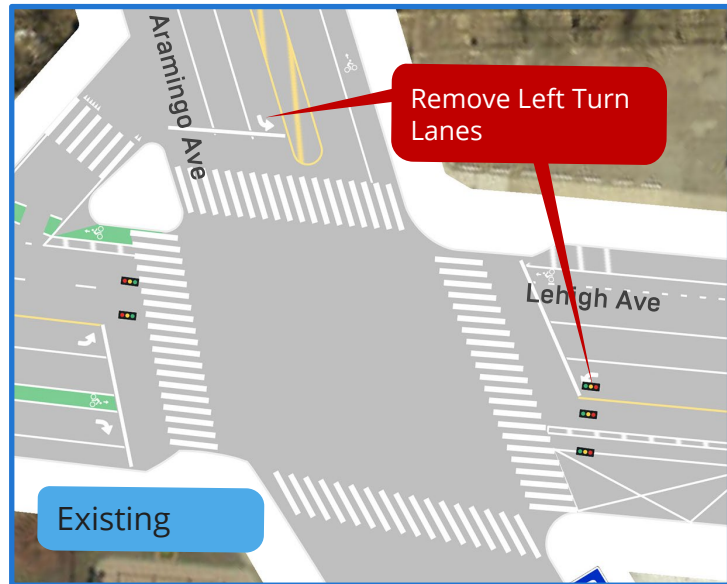
"Improving bike and pedestrian safety is most important to me."

Focus Intersection: Aramingo Avenue

Community-informed problems we're trying to solve:

1. Lack of pedestrian protection & poor yielding
2. Complicated/unsafe bike movements
3. Long crossings for all modes

Prohibit Low-Volume Left Turns & Create a Protected Intersection



"Speeding is out of control."

"Drivers do not care about pedestrians or bikers."

Add Dedicated Turn Arrows & Dual Left Turn Lanes



"...(fast) drivers are not stopping."



Take the survey!



<https://arcg.is/0SWa9m0>

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