

SAFER 6TH AVENUE EAST



Illustration of 6th Avenue East by Tiffany Fenner

Community Voices On Issues That Matter To The Hillside

When asked, "Does 6th Avenue East feel safe to walk, bike, or bus from?" people said:

No or Somewhat: 75%

Yes: 25%



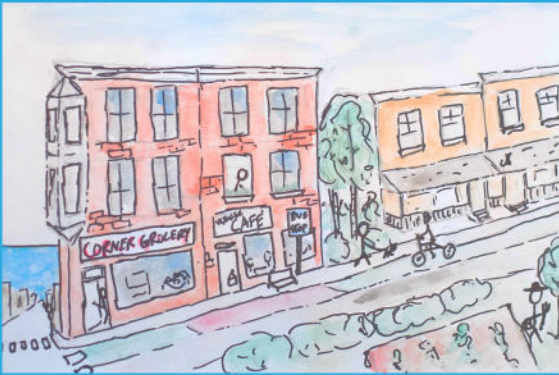
Major Concerns

- **Car Traffic:** The amount and speed of traffic makes it difficult to safely cross.
- **Street & Sidewalk Infrastructure:** Crumbling and unmaintained infrastructure makes getting around difficult, especially for elders and people with disabilities.
- **Access to Resources:** More resources are needed along this street to address poverty, safe & accessible housing, addiction, and mental health.
- **Blighted Properties:** Empty houses and storefronts give the area a run-down look.

6th Avenue East is Finally Changing!

6th Avenue East is a relic of the former highway system that divides the Hillside neighborhood. Paired with redlining, its high-speed design has caused major health disparities for the neighborhood.

The City of Duluth has heard residents' concerns and decided to reconfigure the corridor in 2024, followed by full reconstruction in 7-10 years. This provides us with the opportunity to revitalize both the roadway and the Hillside neighborhood, creating a healthy and welcoming place where people can thrive.



Community member-created vision boards imagining what a safer and more vibrant 6th Avenue East could look like.

We want to hear from you!

Let us know what your experiences are with 6th Avenue East and what you'd like to see to make it a great place for people!

Use the QR code to share your thoughts and feedback.



Special thanks to community partners who have provided studies on 6th Avenue East and advocated for change, including: City of Duluth, Fit City Duluth, Healthy Duluth Area Coalition, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Metropolitan Interstate Council, Neighborhood Housing Services of Duluth, One Roof Housing, St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services

6th Avenue East Facts

- 1 in 3 households in Hillside don't own a car.
- 20% of pedestrian deaths in Duluth in the last decade were on 6th Avenue East.
- 90% of students need to be bussed to Myers-Wilkins because certain roads are deemed unsafe to cross, including 6th Avenue East.

What Residents Have to Say About 6th Avenue East

"Vehicles travel way too fast up and down 6th Avenue East. It's a death trap. I avoid crossing it on foot."

"Sidewalks are bad, the intersections along 6th Avenue East are super busy."

"Wide street and lots of traffic make it pedestrian-unfriendly."

"Snow removal is abysmal. So sad to see wheelchairs and walkers in the street."

"The abandoned lot should be revamped and put to use to freshen up the corner."

Facts from MN Census Data, the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan 2021, WDIO, FOX21, and the Myers-Wilkins Elementary School Safe Routes to School Plan.

About This Survey Data

Zeitgeist's Healthy Hillside Team has had over 15,000 conversations with neighbors about what matters to them and how they want to see their community improved. We created [BECAUSE WE'RE NEIGHBORS](#) as an effort to strengthen the fabric of our communities, build neighborhood connections, and work together to ensure healthy outcomes for all.



Over 600 people participated in the surveys and focus groups that generated these data points. A key theme that emerged is the infrastructural challenges the Hillside neighborhood faces, including poor streets, sidewalks, lighting, and connection points along 6th Avenue East.

Learn More & Follow 6th Avenue East Updates:

zeitgeistarts.com/community
healthyhillside@zeitgeistarts.com
(218) 336-1370





Places for People: Safer 6th Ave East

6th Avenue East is Finally Changing!

Residents have spoken. 6th Avenue East divides the Hillside neighborhood and negatively impacts people's health. This community input has directly led to the City of Duluth prioritizing this street and beginning a planning process for a full reconstruction in the next 7-10 years which is critical to turning this devastating outdated highway into a great place for people. The City begins Phase 1 of this project in 2024 by resurfacing the street. The City will collect public input on Phase 1 during the summer and fall of 2023. Be sure to share what changes you want to see!

Timeline

- 2023: Collect Public Input on Resurfacing
- 2024: Phase 1 – Resurface 6th Avenue East
 - 4-to-3 Lane Conversion
 - Adding ADA Ramps to All Curbs
- 2025-2029: Collect Public Input on Phase 2 Corridor Development, Test Designs, Acquire Funds, Develop Reconstruction Plans
- 2030: Earliest Possible Phase 2 Reconstruction [2034: Latest Possible Phase 2 Reconstruction]

Flip over to see what can make this street safer, healthier, and more connected!

Phase 1: 6th Avenue East Resurfacing



Traffic crashes are a primary issue on 6th Avenue East. The U.S. Department of Transportation is recommending a 4-to-3 lane conversion for any street that handles under 25,000 cars per day. Traffic studies from 2014-2023 show that 6th Avenue East handles <12,000 cars per day (equivalent to 4th Street which has 2 lanes)—and those numbers are *decreasing* each year. Converting the street from 4-to-3 lanes won't drastically impact commute times but *will* calm traffic and reduce crashes by 19-47%.

Additional Safety Measures for Phase 1

With enough community support, these additional safety measures can be added in 2024. [Learn more at zeitgeiststarts.com.](https://www.zeitgeiststarts.com)



This is just the start of what's possible.

**Stay informed and connected at
www.zeitgeiststarts.com**