In the Spring of 2018, the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW) installed the city’s first protected bike lanes on E. Locust St (N. Humboldt Blvd to N. Oakland Ave) and E. North Ave (N. Bremen St to N. Cambridge Ave). The projects consisted of restriping the streets to a consistent number of travel lanes, new turn lanes at select locations, and new protected bike lanes over the bridges.

**BENEFITS**

These projects have led to reduced motorist speeds, an increase in the number of people bicycling, and a more comfortable walking experience across the bridges.

**INCREASED BICYCLING**
The number of people bicycling increased 104% over the North Ave Bridge and 114% over the Locust St Bridge.

**SAFER SPEEDS**
The number of motor vehicle lanes over the bridges was reduced from 4 lanes to 2 lanes to match the number of lanes on either end of each bridge. This change prevents motorists from passing aggressively on the right.

The percentage of people driving over 40mph (10+ mph over the posted speed limit) decreased by more than 50% on North Ave and more than 70% on Locust St. On Locust St, that means 18% of motorists were driving at least 10mph over the speed limit before the protected bike lanes were installed, but now only 5% of motorists are driving over 40mph.

The slower speeds and bike lanes buffering the sidewalk from the motor vehicle lanes also create a more comfortable walking experience over the bridges.

**MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC**
Motor vehicle traffic increased by 9% on North Ave and by 4% on Locust St after the protected bike lanes were installed.

**INCREASED CONNECTIVITY**
The new protected bike lanes provide connections to Riverside High School, UW-Milwaukee, the Oak Leaf Trail, the Beerline Trail, and neighborhoods and attractions on both sides of the Milwaukee River.

The DPW will continue to monitor these projects. Future data collection will include additional bicycle and motor vehicle counts, motor vehicle speeds, and crash data. DPW will also evaluate the effectiveness of the flexible delineators and how the protected bike lanes are kept clear of debris, snow, and ice.
Protected bike lanes combine the experience of riding on an off-street trail with that of riding in the street to create a more comfortable, enjoyable, and safer experience for people on bikes.

Protected bike lanes typically use flexible delineators, parked cars, curbs, or planters to physically separate motor vehicle lanes from bike lanes and sidewalks. The protected bike lanes on Locust St and North Ave use flexible delineators to separate people on bikes from people driving.

To report any issues with the protected bike lanes, call 414.286.CITY.
If you have any questions or comments, email bikewalk@milwaukee.gov