

APPENDIX E

BETTER BLOCK



Better Blocks Website	2
Event Details	3
Better Blocks Press Release	4
Better Block Summary Presentation	6
Better Blocks Conceptual Site Layout	23

A Better Block event was held April 27th and 28th 2012 on E Douglas Ave between Hydraulic and Kansas streets. The street was temporarily redesigned with curb bulbs, a pedestrian plaza, bike lanes and a temporary mid-block crosswalk. The street was further activated with pop-up businesses, food trucks and activities. The project was a “community revitalization effort” to demonstrate how multi-modal street improvements and activation can also improve a street.

The event served as an opportunity to demonstrate how bicycle facilities can be accommodated on the roadway.

Better Blocks Website

Team Better Block

<http://teambetterblock.com/?project=wichita-better-block>



[HOMEPAGE](#) [PROJECTS](#) [BLOG](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CONTACT](#)

WICHITA BETTER BLOCK



THE FIRST BETTER BLOCK PROJECT



THE BETTER BLOCK ON TEDX



SAN ANTONIO

Event Details



You are invited to help temporarily transform and improve a street in Wichita. This transformation will occur during a Better Block event scheduled for this spring as part of the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan. You can learn more about this exciting event by attending a **public meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 17th** in the **Wichita City Hall First Floor Board Room**. The meeting will include a presentation on how an area can be improved with enhanced bicycle, pedestrian and transit access - mixed with art, culture, pop-up businesses, and street life. You will also learn how you can get involved and provide input about the event. We look forward to a great turnout and are excited about building a Wichita Better Block together!

Event Details

What: Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Better Block Introduction Meeting

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Date: Friday, February 17, 2012

Location: Wichita City Hall (455 N. Main Street), First Floor Board Room

Security: Screening is required for all City Hall visitors. Dangerous items, back packs, and packages are not allowed. Delays may occur so attendees should plan on arriving early.

Parking: Bicycle racks are available on the bottom floor of the City Hall parking garage and at the north entrance to the City Hall atrium. Automobile parking is available in the metered visitor parking lot is located directly south of City Hall and the long-term visitor parking lot southwest of City Hall. For more information please see the following City webpage: <http://www.wichita.gov/Government/ParkingSecurity.htm>

About the Plan and Additional Information

The City of Wichita Bicycle Master Plan will help to make bicycling in Wichita easier, safer, and more convenient. The plan will identify and prioritize strategies to provide both new and enhanced bicycle facilities, and increase both the number and frequency of people bicycling in Wichita. It will also provide a framework and strategies for improving the connectivity, safety, comfort, and convenience of the bicycle network. To learn more about this exciting civic initiative

please visit the project Web site.

<http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/AP/Comprehensive/BicycleMasterPlan/>

More information about Better Blocks and examples from projects throughout the country are available on the Team Better Block Website: <http://betterblock.org/> .

In an effort to help reach as many people as possible, please forward and share this information.

Thank you,

Scott Wadle, AICP
Senior Planner
Advanced Plans Division
Wichita-Sedgwick County
Metropolitan Area Planning Department
T 316.268.4421
F 316.268.4390

Better Blocks Press Release

DATE: December 21, 2012
RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: Scott Wadle, 352-4855

Two-Day Better Block Event Kicks Off Today

The two-day Better Block event starts today. It will occur from 4 to 9 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Hydraulic Street in the Douglas Design District.

Better Block is a temporary transformation of Douglas Avenue as a more bicycle-, pedestrian-, and transit-friendly street, mixed with public art, culture, pop-up businesses and street life. The Better Block event is part of the City of Wichita Bicycle Master Plan; a plan to make getting around on a bicycle safer, easier, and more convenient. The event will also provide people opportunities to experience the following features.

- Ride your bicycle in the bike lane and cycle track
- Relax with sidewalk seating
- Experience public art
- Utilize later and more frequent bus service (Friday night)
- Discover the enhanced pedestrian crossing
- Enjoy an assortment of dining and shopping opportunities
- Admire the pedestrian scale lighting
- Try the back-in angled parking

Also, at 5 p.m. today, Vice Mayor Janet Miller will present the Tour de Cure and Bike Month Proclamation at Tanya's Soup Kitchen in the Better Block. For more information about Better Block and the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan, please visit www.wichita.gov and click on the Bicycle Master Plan icon.

Better Block Summary Presentation

Summary of the Wichita Better Block



The "Better Block" project is an urban revitalization project that temporarily reengineers an area with bicycle, pedestrian and transit infrastructure mixed with art, culture and family activities. As part of the City of Wichita's Master Bicycle Plan this Better Block was built with the community and the following sponsors:





Better Block Process

- Staff kickoff
- Community meeting
- Community walk
- Volunteer coordination, flyer & volunteer spreadsheet
- BB plan
- BB starter kit
- Community build
- BB staging plan
- BB Mobilization
- BB Setup and Takedown

Community Meeting



Poster

APRIL 27th - APRIL 28th

The Better Block Project

DOUGLAS AVE. (B/W HYDRAULIC & KANSAS)
AS PART OF THE CITY OF WICHITA BICYCLE MASTER PLAN
AND FINAL FRIDAY IN THE DOUGLAS DESIGN DISTRICT

CITY OF WICHITA
WICHITA BICYCLE MASTER PLAN
SEAM BETTER BLOCK
Toole Design Group

The Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Presents: The Better Block Project
4PM - 9PM April 27th, Friday & 9AM - 1PM April 28th, Saturday
Located at Douglas Avenue, between Hydraulic and Kansas Avenue.

Experience the temporary transformation of Douglas Avenue as a more bicycle, pedestrian, and transit friendly street.

- Ride your bicycle in the bike lanes
- Relax with sidewalk seating
- Experience public art
- Utilize user bus service
- Discover enhanced crosswalks
- Enjoy an assortment of dining and shopping opportunities
- Admire the enhanced night time lighting

For more information or to take part, visit: <http://wichita.seambetterblock.com>

Community Walk



Flyer

WICHITA
LET'S BUILD A
BETTER BLOCK



PRE-BUILD WORKSHOP
APR 20, 5PM - 11PM
APR 21, 9AM - 3PM
122 S HYDRAULIC ST



A BIKE
FRIENDLY
STREET



LANDSCAPED
AVENUE

VOLUNTEER

MATERIAL CHECK LIST

- GLOVES
- CLOSED-TOE SHOES
- PAINT BRUSH / ROLLER
- DRINK

[HTTP://WICHITA.TEAMBETTERBLOCK.COM](http://wichita.teambetterblock.com)

STAGING AND SETUP
APR 27, 3PM - 10PM
APR 28, 7AM - 2PM
**KANSAS ST @
E DOUGLAS AVE**

6 POPUP
SHOPS

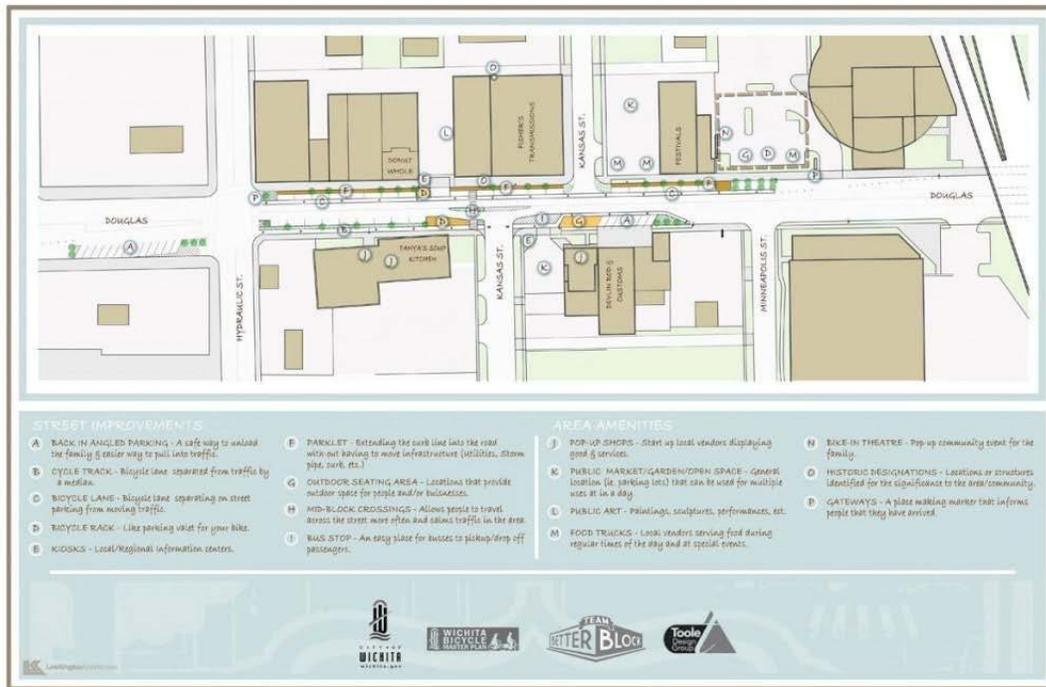
The "Better Block" project is a community revitalization effort that temporarily demonstrates how to revision an area with bicycle, pedestrian and transit infrastructure mixed with art, culture and street life. As part of the City of Wichita's Bicycle Master Plan, the community is invited to help build a Better Block at the intersection of E. Douglas and Kansas Street.

 BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE

Community Build



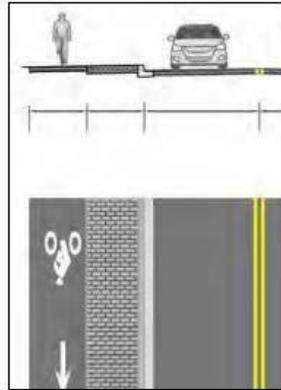
Landscape and Streetscape Plan



Complete Street Treatments

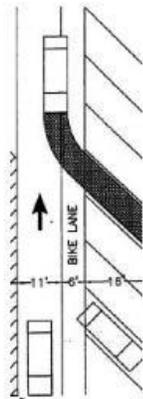
- Cycle track or buffered bicycle lane
- Bicycle lane
- Back-in angle parking with Bicycle Lane
- Pedestrianized bulb-outs
- Placemaking with pop-up shops
- Landscaping and hardscaping

Cycle Track



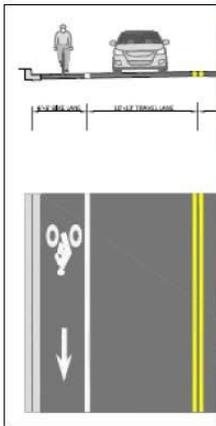
Effectiveness	Recommendation
★★★★★	Use to attract women, children, and elderly riders. Prefer wider sidewalk in association with treatment.

Reverse Angle Parking / Bicycle Lane



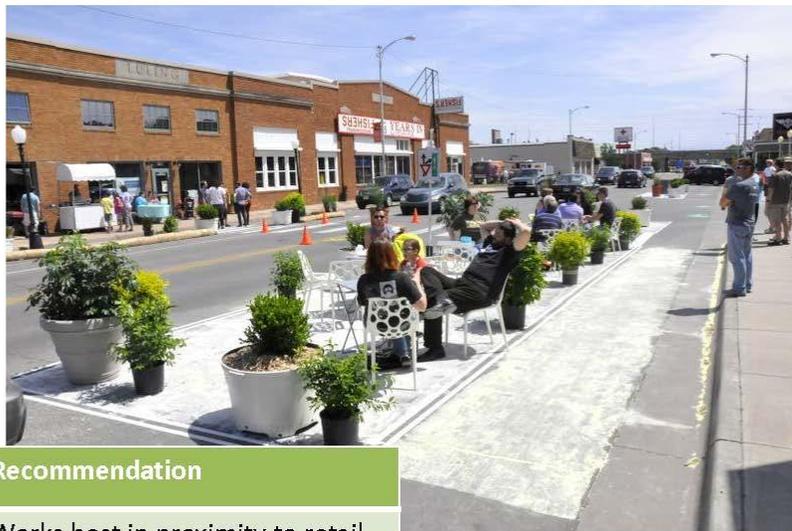
Effectiveness	Recommendation
★★★	Could be widely used as a road diet in retail and destination locations. Need enforcement to reduce front-end parking.

Bicycle Lane



Effectiveness	Recommendation
★★★★	When applied with on-street parking, requires bulb-outs.

Bulb-out / Ped Plaza



Effectiveness	Recommendation
★★★★	Works best in proximity to retail. Create clear delineation between bicycles and pedestrian zones.

Mid-Block Crosswalk



Effectiveness	Recommendation
★★★★	Include horizontal deflection to reduce automobile speeds.

Placemaking

- Pop-up stores
- Branding for area
- Building murals
- Informational signage
- Music on street
- Food and beverage on street
- Sandwich board signs
- Café seating



Streetscaping

- 100 Plants and shrubs
- 30 large planters
- Eight historic street lamps
- Three park benches
- Eighty café seats
- Back in angle parking sign
- Bike lane signage
- Bicycle parking
- Crosswalk











Quotes

- “I want to buy a house here” Woman visiting the area for first time.
- “I don’t want the Better Block to leave” Local resident
- “Wichita needed this!” – Leon Moeder, Local property owner
- “Please make the crosswalk stay!” Angela Mallory, Donut Whole business owner
- “How can we make these changes permanent?” – Ken Stoeffel, property owner

Recommendations

#1 Design streets on a block by block scale with an eye to the adjacent land uses and neighborhoods.

#2 Test street designs using the Better Block cone, observe and refine method

#3 Use the Better Block approach to kick-off design concepts and master plans.



Better Blocks Conceptual Site Layout



STREET IMPROVEMENTS

- A** BACK IN ANGLED PARKING - A safe way to unload the family & easier way to pull into traffic.
- B** CYCLE TRACK - Bicycle lane separated from traffic by a median.
- C** BICYCLE LANE - Bicycle lane separating on street parking from moving traffic.
- D** BICYCLE RACK - Like parking valet for your bike.
- E** KIOSKS - Local/Regional information centers.
- F** PARKLET - Extending the curb line into the road with-out having to move infrastructure (utilities, storm pipe, curb, etc.)
- G** OUTDOOR SEATING AREA - Locations that provide outdoor space for people and/or businesses.
- H** MID-BLOCK CROSSINGS - Allows people to travel across the street more often and calms traffic in the area.
- I** BUS STOP - An easy place for busses to pickup/drop off passengers.





AREA AMENITIES

- J** POP-UP SHOPS - Start up local vendors displaying good & services.
- K** PUBLIC MARKET/GARDEN/OPEN SPACE - General location (ie. parking lots) that can be used for multiple uses at in a day.
- L** PUBLIC ART - Paintings, sculptures, performances, ect.
- M** FOOD TRUCKS - Local vendors serving food during regular times of the day and at special events.
- N** BIKE-IN THEATRE - Pop-up community event for the family.
- O** HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS - Locations or structures identified for the significance to the area/community.
- P** GATEWAYS - A place making marker that informs people that they have arrived.



Better Blocks Website

Team Better Block

<http://teambetterblock.com/?project=wichita-better-block>



[HOMEPAGE](#) [PROJECTS](#) [BLOG](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CONTACT](#)

WICHITA BETTER BLOCK



THE FIRST BETTER BLOCK PROJECT



THE BETTER BLOCK ON TEDX



SAN ANTONIO

The Wichita Better Block wrapped up after a weekend transformation that included build out of cycle racks, pedestrian bulb-outs, reverse angled-parking, safer cross walks, and pop-up businesses. We took our main street with parking converted into a pedestrian and bicycle friendly street that encouraged slower speeds and more sidewalk activity. Check out the photos for highlights: Email Team Better Block at info@teambetterblock.com

CONTACT US



Douglas Avenue before the Better Block project



Douglas Avenue during the Better Block



BETTER BLOCK



THE LIVING PLAZA PROJECT



TEAM BETTER BLOCK PRESS

The Washington Post



dwel