

Research Recap

Connecting Millvale to the River and the Region

Purpose: To identify and assess the feasibility of strategies to improve the safety and enhance the quality of access between Millvale and the Allegheny Riverfront, particularly at the complicated section of Route 28 Exit 3 and East Ohio Street, known locally as “The Curve.”

Approach: The research team built upon seven long-term connection strategies previously developed by Carnegie Mellon’s 2017 graduate urban design studio by developing a list of short-term interventions to enhance connectivity.

Key Findings: Working with members of the project’s steering committee, the team evaluated these in terms of their physical, financial, and procedural impacts. From the research, they determined that the planting street trees, painting murals on highway walls, and installing new entry signage would have a high impact and good feasibility, and should be prioritized. Furthermore, they recommended considering street banners and improved crosswalks as collateral projects, as they are lower-cost interventions with a significant impact.

The Remaking Cities Institute research team developed a set of eight short-term interventions:

1. Improved crosswalks
2. Painted walls
3. Entry signage
4. Street trees
5. Street banners
6. Traffic lights
7. Smart signalization
8. Artistic lighting

Next steps include building community awareness of the potential of better connections, working with key stakeholders on improvements that benefit both businesses and community, and building on riverfront events.

Conclusion: Implementing either short term or long term design plans to help improve the safety and accessibility between Millvale and the Allegheny Riverfront could have beneficial impacts on Millvale’s social, ecological, and economic conditions that could be achieved in a short time frame.



Research Team:

- Stefani Danes (Principal Investigator)
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3996-8292>

Project Record:

- <https://ppms.cit.cmu.edu/projects/detail/62>

Follow Us:

-  www.facebook.com/traffic21.tset
-  @Traffic21CMU