Providence won the 5th largest Implementation award in the first round of the new Safe Streets For All program, of $27.2 million. This grant for urban trail expansion is complicated by a recent mayoral transition with shifting priorities.

As the grant’s specific scope comes into focus, balancing the new mayor’s focus on sidewalk maintenance with the award based on the previous administration’s aggressive bike network construction is a sometimes delicate process.

Providence has built significant mileage of protected bike lanes in recent years (in orange above). The segments planned as part of the Safe Streets for All grant scope include a major east-west protected bike lane connection to connect Downtown (upper right near #6) with the significant environmental justice neighborhood of Olneyville. Bike/ped improvements to several major intersections are also included in the planned scope for the grant (in green).

Broad Street, a 2022 flexpost-protected project listed in People for Bikes’ 10 best new bike lanes, is known for being the heavily Dominican south side’s bustling center of small business, culture, and social life, sometimes called a Latino Cultural Corridor. With this project complete, Broad Street is safer and more accessible for people walking, biking, riding the bus, and driving, with improved bus service and a repaved road surface.

Separate from the SS4A scope, Providence is close to construction for a major segment of the Woonasquatucket River Greenway, replacing faded unprotected bike lanes on a one-way pair with a river-fronting shared-use path. This will fill one of the biggest gaps in the all-ages-and-abilities connection between Downtown and the regional rail trail that runs through Olneyville and into the neighboring municipality to the west (stretching from #5 above eastward).