

Washington Downtown Square Streetscape



Q: How will the project be funded?

A: Due to a recent change by IDOT to the ITEP program, the City will not be submitting an application for a federal grant until late summer/early fall 2020. The project will only move forward at this time if the grant is secured. The grant funding will provide 80% of the funding needed for the project. The City will be required to provide 20% of the funding for the project.

Q: When will we know if the City receives the federal grant?

A: It is anticipated that IDOT will make an announcement regarding the grant awards in the Spring of 2021.

Q: How will the City fund their 20% portion of the project?

A: The City's portion will be funded through the use of TIF funds.

Q: What is the total cost of the project?

A: The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$2.0 million. This estimate will be refined as the project specifics are developed. It is understood that due to lack of IDOT funding eligibility and other budget constraints, some improvements may need to be excluded from the project.

Q: When will construction start?

A: If IDOT awards the City funding in the Spring of 2021, it is anticipated construction would start in the spring of 2022.

Q: How long will construction last?

A: It is anticipated construction will last from May 1 to December 1.

Q: Will the project be constructed at this time if the City does not receive the federal grant?

A: No.

Q: How will my business be impacted during construction?

A: Due to the sidewalks being replaced throughout the project limits, there will be some inconveniences during construction. The project team will work closely with each business owner during the final design phase to develop a sequence and schedule of construction that will allow all entrances to remain open during construction.

Q: Will I be reimbursed for revenue lost during construction?

A: No, but the City will do everything they can to minimize disruption to your business.

Q: What is the City's plan for the festivals that are held on the square the year that the square is under construction?

A: The City will work diligently to plan construction operations around scheduled events.

Q: How many parking spaces are being lost within the project limits?

A: 11 spaces. Understanding that streetscape projects typically reduce the number of parking spaces as they provide increased sidewalk space, green space, and greater pedestrian safety, the City has diligently worked to increase the number of parking spaces in the downtown area in preparation for this project. The City has purchased/reconstructed two parking lots over the last three years that have added 46 public parking spaces in the downtown area.

Q: Is the City planning any new parking areas in the downtown area to make up for the lost spaces?

A: While there are no current plans to add parking, the City would be interested in exploring the addition of off-street parking lots to increase the capacity.

Q: Who will be responsible for maintaining the new landscaping?

A: The City understands the importance of good maintenance and will continue their current, rigorous maintenance activities throughout the city.

Q: What type of plant material will be planted?

A: These decisions have not been made yet but low maintenance trees/plants that thrive in urban environments will be used.

Q: Are we maintaining the historic nature of the square?

A: Yes. The design team is considering the historic buildings throughout the square and choosing new streetscape elements to complement the existing features, materials and design that are prominent in the city. Additionally, a series of interpretative panels are being considered *around* the Square.

Q: Will the proposed improvements address the ADA issues throughout the square?

A: Yes. The design team is currently working on a plan that will make the entire square ADA compliant.

Q: Will the proposed layout accommodate truck traffic?

A: Yes. Since Bus 24 is under IDOT jurisdiction, they will require the square to be able to accommodate truck traffic.

Q: Will the proposed improvements address ongoing issues with the water service lines?

A: Yes. The proposed improvements will include replacing water service lines while the existing sidewalk is removed.