

Council Business Meeting

February 19, 2019

Agenda Item	Replace Sidewalk – Plaza at N. Main and E. Main Street	
From	Paula C. Brown, PE	Public Works Director
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SUMMARY

This item requests Council’s approval to move forward with the sidewalk replacement along N. Main Street and E. Main Street at the Plaza. The existing sidewalk does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, has significant heaving from tree roots and requires pedestrians to walk adjacent to the roadway with limited protection.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Evaluate real property and facility assets to strategically support city mission and goals

- *Maintain existing infrastructure to meet regulatory requirements and minimize life-cycle costs*
- *Deliver timely life-cycle capital improvement projects*
- *Maintain and improve infrastructure that enhances the economic vitality of the community*
- *Evaluate all city infrastructure regarding planning, management, and financial resources*
- *Identify and evaluate underperforming assets*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

On August 7, 2018, staff presented Council with a preliminary plan for sidewalk replacement.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Engineering staff have developed a plan to remove the existing sidewalk and replace with bark or low planting materials to enhance tree health (realizing this area will still be a primary spot for parade watchers), retain the curb along N/E. Main, relocate the sidewalk to the parking side, retain all of the parking (most spots will be signed as compact for shorter wheel base lengths), retain the bus shelter and rebuild the landing area to meet ADA standards, add two benches, add a planter area in an attempt to remove the temptation to cross at an unmarked crossing right across from City Hall, and rebuild the ADA ramps in that section.

The goals are to remove the current trip hazards along the walkway, retain the trees, retain parking and provide a new ADA compliant walking surface. Staff has received comments from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and made their recommended changes to the final plan. ODOT has requested that the City not make the completed changes to the ramps at the north end pending a project ODOT will be completing in the future.

The chair of the Transportation Commission raised concerns that the sidewalk does not meet the goal of having an 8-foot sidewalk in downtown. Staff’s response is that there are 8-foot and wider sidewalks in this section of downtown along the storefronts where people are encouraged to congregate and walk in groups. The sidewalk in question is currently the primary access from the bus stop to the plaza and surrounding businesses. An 8-foot sidewalk cannot be accommodated through the section without reducing or removing parking or completely removing the trees.

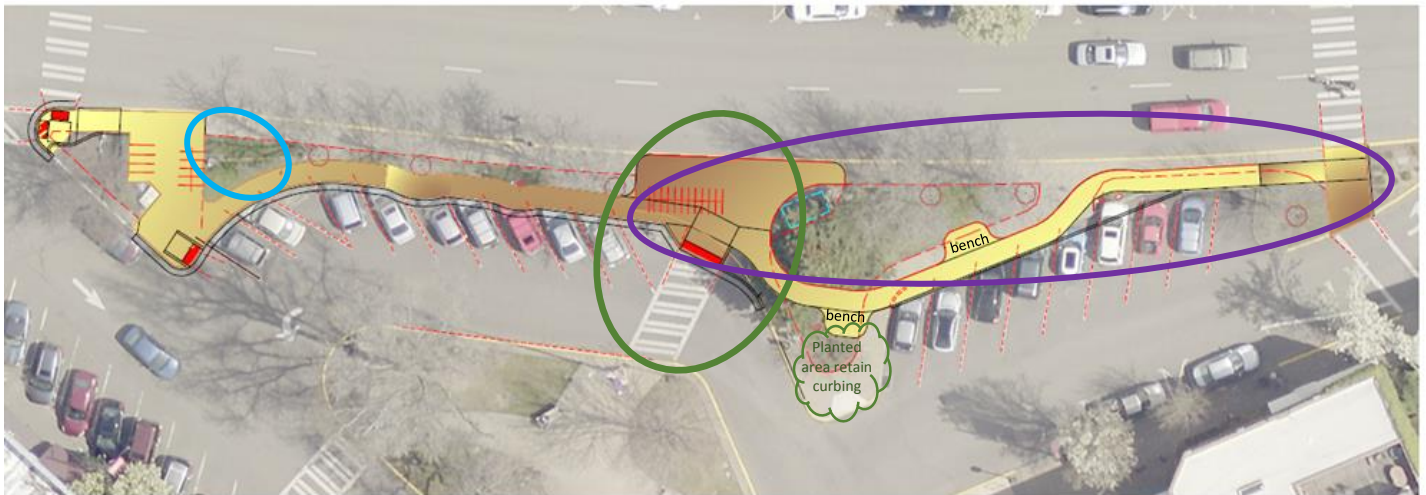
FISCAL IMPACTS

This project is a safety issue and is not a named project on the transportation project list. This project will correct specific safety deficiencies. Funds are available in this biennium's budget within the Street Fund capital outlay improvements to cover the cost of this project, which is estimated at \$125,000. Funds would come from the miscellaneous concrete funds. The project could begin in March 2019.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend completing the project as shown below with the recommendation from the Transportation Commission chair to add a section of sidewalk on the south end of the bike racks (see light blue oval) and that will be added for final design should this project be approved to move forward.

PLAZA SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PLAN



One alternative to implementing the entire project is to completely remove the existing sidewalk and only have concrete from the bus shelter to the crossing into the plaza as shown in the green oval. Bus patrons would have only one accessible option to go to the plaza crossing then make additional crossings in front of City Hall or over to the Plaza businesses.

Another option would be to completely remove the existing sidewalk and replace it with a new concrete sidewalk from the bus stop south to the intersection at Oak Street with a 6 to 8-foot section (shown in the purple oval), but not replace the sidewalk section north of the bus shelter. The sidewalk would be in the same location but wider than the 5-foot section shown. Pedestrians would be channeled to the crosswalk heading into the plaza and south to Oak Street.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

1. I move to approve staff's recommendation to replace the sidewalk as recommended.
2. I move to amend staff's recommendation and to remove the existing sidewalk, but only replace the section shown in the green oval.
3. I move to amend staff's recommendation and to remove the existing sidewalk, but only replace the section shown in the purple oval.
4. I move to return this to staff for further analysis taking into account the following: _____

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Council Study Session August 7, 2018; [staff report](#) and [minutes](#)