City Manager's Update

February 14, 2023

CIP Update
Jade Dundas
Capital Projects Director

Jessica Morriss
Transportation Assistant Director



Key Takeaways

- Public engagement remains a top priority for capital construction projects
- Project budgets have increased due to rising construction costs and scope changes
- Projects highlighted in today's presentation will require future Council action to authorize contracts in order to maintain project budgets and schedules.
- There are currently over 40 projects that are in design or construction
- 2016 GO Bond projects need to be encumbered by summer 2023

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Vermont Ave. Sidewalk Replacement

- **Project Scope:** Replacement of existing sidewalk on Vermont from Haywood Rd. to Olney Rd
- **Project Schedule**:
  - Tree Removal: February 21, 2023
  - Bid begin construction: Spring 2023
- **Project Budget:**
  - Final project budget: $1.15M
  - Original 2016 Bond funding: $748,000



Asheville Citizen-Times (Asheville, North Carolina) · 9 Jun 1997, Mon · Page 7

Vermont Ave. moves to save maple trees

By Paul Clark
STAFF WRITER

For awhile, it looked like it would come down to old trees or new sidewalks for Vermont Avenue.

But after the neighborhood turned out in force for the 70-year-old maples that form a canopy over the avenue and its walkers, the city backed away from plans to remove the trees. Only about six diseased and dying will go.

The city's Public Works Department has asked the West Asheville neighborhood to come up with ideas in six months for how it can have both trees and new sidewalks.

"We'd rather have the trees," community organizer Martha Hungerford said. "It's like 20 degrees difference in the coolness of the area. We have (real estate agents) who walk by and knock on doors and say, 'let us know if you are going to sell your house.' "

Vermont got its name because of the maples, planted when the houses and streets were built in the 1920s. There are maples on nearby Maple Crescent and Vance Crescent.

"They're like a giant community garden for us," said Brian Peterson, a nearby resident and president of the Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods. More than 500 people have signed petitions in their support.

But they're not the best tree for urban planting, the city has found. Their roots cause sidewalks to buckle. Sidewalks on Vermont fairly roll in places.

"There are some major toe-trippers out there," Suzanne Molloy, Public Works assistant director, said.

"They've been there 20 years," said Hungerford, president of the Vermont Avenue-Brevard Road Neighborhood Association, formed over the tree issue. "We're saying we'll walk on a dirt path rather than cut the trees."

"It would be a shame to cut them down," Jim Wooten said outside his daughter's Vermont Avenue residence Wednesday. "It's beautiful in the fall."

The trees were what attracted resident daughter Joan Goff to the neighborhood, she said. "If our trees were gone, our neighborhood would not be the same," she said.

Trees are worth a lot to a city, and the city council recognized that recently by amending and upgrading the city's tree ordinance. A recent Michigan State University study indicates a single tree produces within a 50-year lifetime $193,250 worth of oxygen, recycled water, soil amendments, air pollution control and lodging for wildlife.

The sidewalk replacement is part of the $300,000 the city is spending this year to upgrade the city's paved walkways.



JOHN COUTLAKIS/CITIZEN-TIMES

Teens Beth Foster, Sophia Laurin, Gretchen Guggenheim and Jonathan Guggenheim walk down the tree-lined street of Vermont Avenue recently.

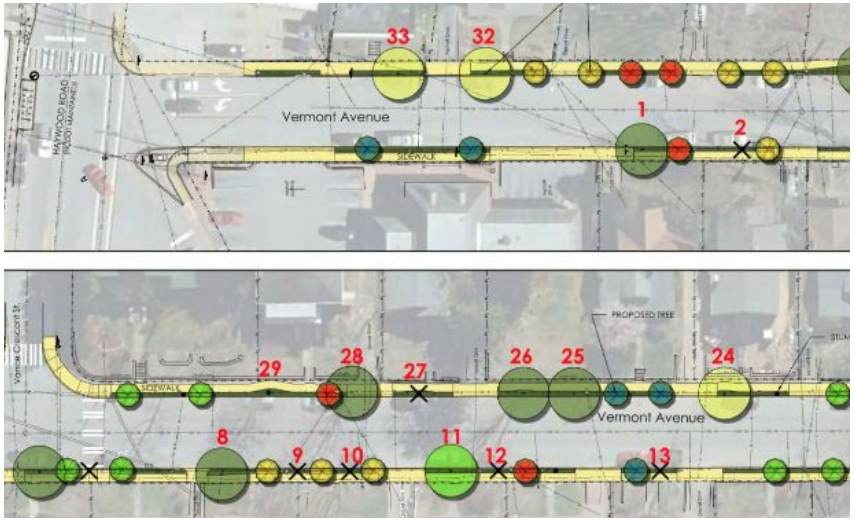
Vermont Public Engagement Summary

- Summer, 2019 public survey conducted regarding sidewalk intent. *Results of 2019 Survey*
- Summer, 2019 *Early Sidewalk Concept Options*
- Summer, 2020 *Conceptual Design*
- October 25, 2021 Public Meeting *Presentation Boards*
- January 11, 2022 Neighborhood Meeting *Presentation Boards*
- January, 2022 in response to comments received on the concept plans, a survey was conducted to clarify the community's preference on the design of the sidewalk in relation to the existing street trees. *Public Survey Results*
- June 2022 Schematic design tree impact plan released providing an update on the tree impacts for the sidewalk project. Further revisions may be required as the engineering design and easement discussions progress.
- September 2022 Neighborhood Meeting to present 60% Design update
- October 2022 Tree Risk Assessment analysis completed on qualifying trees
- December 2022 – Neighborhood meeting to present plan updates and construction schedule
- January 2023 - Urban Forestry Commission meeting

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Vermont Ave. Tree Impacts

Current Number of Trees	32
Trees Removed	11
New Trees Planted	33
Total Trees at Project Completion	**54**
Net Canopy Gain at Maturity	+2,249 sf



- Tree removal scheduled to begin February 21, 2023
  - Parking will be restricted during the tree removal process (1 day expected)
  - Notification will be given 7 days prior to the date of removal
  - Parking restrictions will be enforced through towing
- Contract for construction award - Spring 2023

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Downtown Public Restroom

- **Project Scope:** Installation of a freestanding public restroom and supporting park improvements
- **Project Schedule:**
  - Designer selection currently underway
  - Design award - March 2023
  - Construction - Winter ‘23 to Summer ‘24
- **Project Budget:**
  - Current Project Budget: $650,000
  - Funding Source: ARPA
- **Project Note: (Construction timeframe)**
  - Involved public engagement effort
  - Complicated downtown construction site
  - Project scheduled considering staffing and all other project delivery deadlines



Downtown Public Restroom

- **Public Engagement:**
  - Downtown Development, CAPE and Capital Projects staff are working together to ensure that the public will be informed and engaged
  - Review work conducted by staff identified Rankin and College as the best site for the initial installation.



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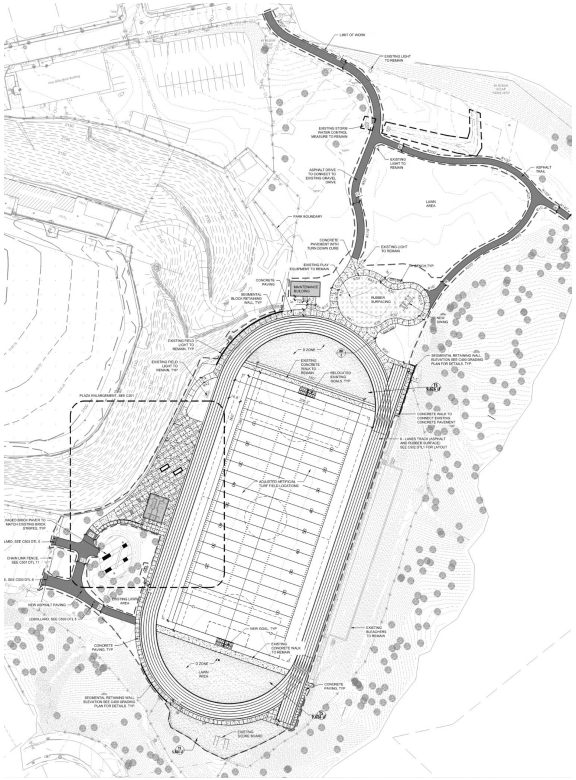
Memorial Stadium

- **Project Scope:** 6 lane competition track, new restroom building, remove metal bleachers, improve playground, expand walking trails and update surfacing
- **Project Schedule:**
  - Anticipated bid date - February 2023
  - Construction - May 2023 to May 2024
- **Project Budget:**
  - Total project budget: $4M
  - Funding Source: 2016, scope and budget updated in 2022
- **Public Engagement:**
  - Community discussion - March 2022
  - Council capital budget work sessions - April 12 and April 26
  - Concept review/community update - July 2022
  - Community and City Council follow up - August 2022

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Memorial Stadium

Site layout





Restroom rendering with temporary bleachers shown in the background

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Grant Center

- **Project Scope:** New indoor (gymnasium) and outdoor sports courts, swimming pool, meeting rooms, solar array
- **Project Schedule:** Completion - June 2023 - Planning to have pool open summer 2023





Project Budget:

- Final budget: $8.3M
- 2016 Bond: $4.7M

Public Engagement:

- Public scope review - Summer 2021
- Groundbreaking - April 28, 2022
- Ribbon cutting - Summer 2023

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Broadway Public Safety Station

- **Project Scope:** 3 bay fire station, emergency operations center, police substation, public art, LEED Silver Certification
- **Project Schedule:**
  - Completion - May 2023
  - Occupancy - June 2023
- **Project Budget:** $14.7M
  - FY2015 Annual Budget - $3.4M
- **Public Engagement:**
  - Contractor is working 7 days per week 7am - 7pm
  - Neighbors have been informed through email, social media, and text messages



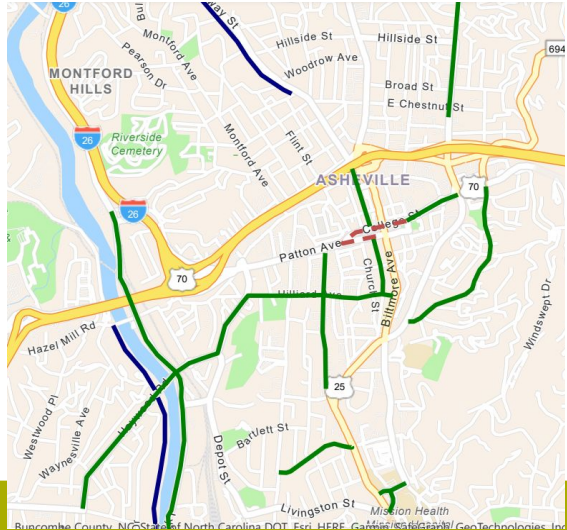




College & Patton Downtown Bike Lanes

- **Project Scope:** Install protected bike lanes on College and Patton
- **Project Schedule:**
  - Additional Public Engagement: March/April 2023
  - Anticipated construction award date: June/July 2023
- **Project Budget:** $100,000
  - Included in the FY2022 CIP

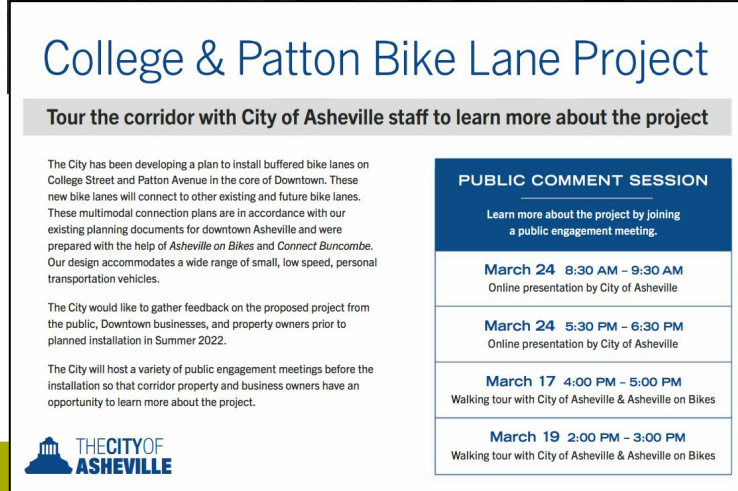




College & Patton Downtown Bike Lanes

- **Public Engagement:**
  - **March 2022** - Virtual meetings and walking tours
  - **March 2022** and June 2022 - Downtown and Multimodal Commission meetings
  - **October-November 2022** - stakeholder meetings
  - **November-December 2022** - Public Space Management Committee and Downtown Commission
  - **January 24, 2023** - Meeting with Downtown business owners to discuss options to improve public engagement
  - **March/April 2023** - Additional Public Engagement based on feedback received (dates TBD)





College & Patton Bike Lane Project

Tour the corridor with City of Asheville staff to learn more about the project

The City has been developing a plan to install buffered bike lanes on College Street and Patton Avenue in the core of Downtown. These new bike lanes will connect to other existing and future bike lanes. These multimodal connection plans are in accordance with our existing planning documents for downtown Asheville and were prepared with the help of *Asheville on Bikes* and *Connect Buncombe*. Our design accommodates a wide range of small, low speed, personal transportation vehicles.

The City would like to gather feedback on the proposed project from the public, Downtown businesses, and property owners prior to planned installation in Summer 2022.

The City will host a variety of public engagement meetings before the installation so that corridor property and business owners have an opportunity to learn more about the project.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Learn more about the project by joining a public engagement meeting.

March 24 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Online presentation by City of Asheville

March 24 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Online presentation by City of Asheville

March 17 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Walking tour with City of Asheville & Asheville on Bikes

March 19 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Walking tour with City of Asheville & Asheville on Bikes

Upcoming City Council Action Items

- March
  - Project Management Assistance Contract - (General Fund CIP)
  - Downtown Restroom Design Contract - Design (ARPA)
  - Stephens Lee Recreation Center Improvement - Construction (CDBG)
  - Tempie Avery Boiler Replacement - Construction (General Fund CIP)
- April
  - New Leicester Highway Sidewalks - Construction (MPO)
  - Memorial Stadium Phase 2 - Construction (GO Bond)
  - NRAD Greenway design award - Design (General Fund CIP)
  - Coxe Ave design award - Design (MPO)
- May
  - Shiloh Sidewalk - Construction (GO Bond)
  - Murphy Oakley Park Improvements - Construction (GO Bond)
  - Onteora sidewalk - Construction (GO Bond)
  - Electric Vehicle Charging Station - Construction (General Fund CIP)

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- 2016 GO Bond projects need to be encumbered by summer 2023

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