

City of Buchanan – Open house – Streetscape (2022-08-08) (FINAL DRAFT)

Talking Points

Mayor

- Team Introduction (Rich, Mike & Matt)
- Our goal today is help residents understand the scope and scale of this project, to share where we are in this project, what we currently know about funding, costs, phasing, and timeline, and to introduce high level concepts on proposed downtown design to get feedback from residents at this early stage.

Mike Schwartz – P&N

Mike gives brief project overview and background, briefly remind the public why this project is essential:

- City received a grant to have P&N conducted a 3-year infrastructure assessment from 2016-2018 that identified a critical need to update old water mains, storm sewers, and sanitary sewer infrastructure that runs under our downtown and neighborhood streets. – Stress Important / Necessary Project
- Since then, the City has secured significant funding thru USDA for the project that will begin a phasing of the replacement of city sewer and water lines, as well as a new downtown streetscape. 40-year loan at 1.375%
- Also secured funding thru MDOT for an updated Street Light at Oak and Front and some of the reconstruction costs of Front Street.
- USDA funding 2 project distinct projects (Downtown Infrastructure Improvements and New Well / Iron Removal plant)
- Downtown Project – Today's discussion is a 14.6 million - 2 phase project – Target start in 2023 for phase 1 and likely continue into 2025 for the completion of Phase 2. (Map on overhead)
- Schedule is fluctuating for start date and will be contingent on permits, challenging bidding, construction, market, labor and supply chain challenges.
- Final Phasing limits are yet to be determined (November)
- Besides update infrastructure to replace the 1920's and 1930's failing system, will have new surface improvements (Asphalt – streets, sidewalks, driveways aprons, etc.)
- Turn over to Rich for Administrative background.

Rich

How did we get here:

- Introduction of the infrastructure assessment to the City Commission in 2021
- Engineer presented Project Overview to City Commission early this year
- USDA and Financial Advisor assisting City with USDA loan
- A big part of this project is Downtown Reconstruction Project which will include all new infrastructure and streetscape design for Front St. and all of downtown
- Used the project work and recommendation from Andrews University A Vision for Buchanan as baseline, as starting point of proposed design
- We love historic downtown Buchanan, goal is to put it back together like it was, but even better!

- Regular Engineering and Design meetings between the Engineer and Architecture to propose project concept
- Background of meeting – monthly, DDA

Matt Levandoski – P&N

- Explain the area of focus for streetscape. We are following the utility route and trying to stretch the downtown feel.
- Explain the mindset for respecting the history, not changing the downtown, but using this opportunity to improve for the future !
- Walk the group through the existing downtown photos to explain where we see opportunities for improvement and why.
- Explain the overall concept plan, parking quantities, and improvements to Dewey St. and Oak St.
- Explain the proposed changes on Red Bud Trail
- Explain the proposed intersection change at Red Bud Trail and Front St. removing Rynerson St.
- Explain the proposed changes on Red Bud Trail
- Explain the proposed changes on Front St.
- Explain the proposed changes on Main St.
- Explain the Elevated Living St. Concept
- Breakout to look at drawings
- Explain the Open House and Comment Cards
- Closing Comments and Next Steps