

MEMORANDUM

City of Springfield

Date: 11/25/2020
To: Nancy Newton
From: Molly Markarian, Senior Planner
Tom Boyatt, Community Development Director
Brian Conlon, Operations Director
Subject: Main Street Safety Project - Status Update

**COMMUNICATION
PACKET
MEMORANDUM**

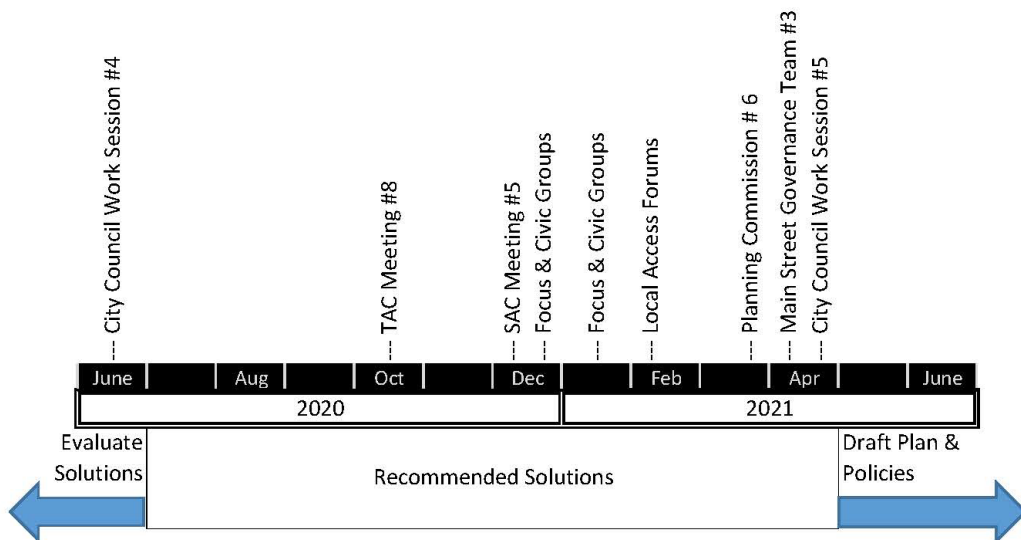
INFORMATION SHARE:

In June, the project team shared preliminary safety solution options for Main Street with Council and sought input to inform the refinement of those options. This memo outlines the status of the Main Street Safety Project in advance of planned community engagement this winter.

Project Status

An [August E-Update](#) sent to project stakeholders summarized the consistent themes heard when feedback was sought to inform which possible infrastructure elements are preferred to address the safety problem on Main Street. From this feedback we know that safety continues to be a key community concern, but possible infrastructure solutions need to reflect a balanced approach to improve safety and support business/economic development. Additionally, a variety of distinct yet compatible options are needed to integrate with the varied characteristics of different street segments along the corridor.

Reflecting feedback received from the community and City Council, the project team refined the safety solution options into a comprehensive safety solution ‘toolbox’ and recommendations that incorporate a flexible, gradual, and location-specific approach to change. In October, the project’s Technical Advisory Committee reviewed three key groupings of recommended tools (intersection control, raised median framework, and street cross sections) and provided feedback on the draft solution ‘toolbox’ and recommendations. Additional review and input will be sought from advisory committees and the broader community this winter prior to sharing the draft recommendations and community feedback with Council in spring 2021, as depicted below.



Next Steps

The purpose of this round of community outreach and engagement with diverse interest groups is to help the project team improve the draft recommendations to arrive at an implementable and effective set of solutions that meet the project goals and make Main Street safer for people walking, biking, driving, and taking transit. In accordance with the approved [Community Engagement Plan](#), the project team will review the draft solution ‘toolbox’ and recommendations at the Strategic Advisory Committee, Focus Groups (e.g. seniors and persons with disabilities), Civic Groups (e.g. Rotary), and forums for adjacent business/property owners. The project team will then share summaries of the input received from these groups when presenting the draft recommendations to the Planning Commission, Main Street Governance Team, and City Council in spring 2021 in preparation for drafting the Main Street Facility Plan for Council consideration.

Project Background

Springfield’s Main Street is consistently ranked as one of the most unsafe city streets in Oregon based on the severity and frequency of traffic crashes. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the City of Springfield must address this problem to save lives, reduce injuries, and lessen property damage due to crashes. *The purpose of the Main Street Safety Project Planning Phase is to select infrastructure solutions that will make Main Street safer for people walking, biking, driving, and taking transit.* The selected safety improvements will provide for the movement of goods and people, support the economic viability of the corridor, accommodate current bus service and future transit solutions, and complement traffic safety education and enforcement.

In 2016, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) programmed \$3.9 million to construct raised center median treatments on nearly five miles of Main Street from 20th Street to 72nd Street. ODOT also offered financial support to engage property owners, businesses, and the traveling public in a planning process to develop and document how to address the safety problems on Main Street with a design concept that provides for the access needs of corridor businesses and accommodates current bus service and future transit improvements. Having reached a common understanding about the definition of the project purpose, agency roles, and project decision-making, the multi-agency Main Street Governance Team formally kicked off the Facility Plan process in June 2018.

The Main Street Facility Plan will be the work product that pulls together analysis, public outreach and design concepts developed during this project’s Planning Phase. It is an expression of the community’s values that becomes the design framework for project development. Council adoption of the Facility Plan as an amendment to the Springfield Transportation System Plan allows the City and ODOT to proceed with detailed design, engineering, and construction of the Council-selected solutions.