

## OUR MAIN STREET SPRINGFIELD



MAIN STREET SAFETY PROJECT | 20th Street to 72nd Street

Visit Project Website

# Main Street Safety Project

## Summary of Results from Fourth Round of Community Engagement

The fourth round of community engagement occurred from September through November 2021 to capture feedback on the [Draft Main Street Facility Plan](#) including the proposed solution "toolbox" and range of recommended safety tools - roundabouts, raised medians, sidewalks and biking lanes.

The fourth round included the final Strategic Advisory Committee meeting, a presentation to the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Government Issues Committee, a targeted postcard mailing to business and property owners adjacent to Main Street within the project corridor, information shared in Episode #143 of Spent the Rent podcast with Patty Rose and through social media. Additionally, the project team received correspondence from individual community members providing their feedback on the Draft Main Street Facility Plan. After the fourth round of community engagement wrapped up, staff compiled and analyzed the feedback received.

Overall, community members provided support for the Draft Main Street Facility Plan to go forward as they want to see safety improved on Main Street. Additionally, they reconfirmed they like the proposed solution "toolbox" and the range of recommended tools to address safety as it provides the flexibility to implement infrastructure upgrades that will accommodate different segments of the corridor instead of a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

There were several high-level consistent themes heard across all engagement points when feedback was sought on the Draft Main Street Facility Plan. Those consistent themes were:

### Largely heard

- **Positive** feedback overall, support for specific tools
- **Toolbox good**, allows for a **flexible approach** to implementation
- **Concerns** for implementation impacts to site access/usage and out of direction travel for residents, customers, freight

### Some shared

- **Doubt** that tools address project goals as presented
- **Suggestions** for alternative solution approaches
- **Reflections** on existing out of direction travel for bicyclists and pedestrians,

Additionally, there were consistent themes heard on the overall project and process:

Largely heard

- **Positive** reception for project, enthusiasm for community benefit
- **Appreciation** for project engagement, information, responsiveness
- **Questions** regarding deliverables, stages, outcomes

Some shared

- **Skepticism** that effort and potential corridor impacts worth community benefits
- **Lower confidence** in corridor awareness of project, feedback not addressed as desired
- Last minute circumstances, lack of interest, other priorities, online format, general agency distrust influenced decision to not engage

This feedback was shared with the Springfield Planning Commission, the Main Street Governance Team, and the Springfield City Council. There were several consistent themes in the feedback provided from all three governing bodies. Those consistent themes were:

We heard agreement on

- **Overall support** for approach and toolbox
- Challenges and solutions conveyed well
- **Applaud** community engagement, with desire to replicate
- Plan demonstrates that we **heard and responded** to community members
- Code update will demonstrate commitment

Some shared

- Desire for more enhanced pedestrian crossings, lighting, landscaping, and traffic enforcement

Staff sought direction on the next proposed step of holding a public hearing to move the Draft Main Street Facility Plan into the adoption process, which was supported by all three governing bodies.

## ODOT's Immediate Safety Upgrades to Main Street and South A Street - *Latest News*

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In our August 10, 2021 e-update, we provided information on some immediate safety upgrades that would be occurring on the Main Street and South A Street Corridor in Springfield. ODOT budgeted \$3 million to make these upgrades and is working with City of Springfield staff to implement them. **These immediate safety upgrades on the Main Street and South A Street Corridor are separate from our planning work** for the Main Street Safety Project but will support the work that is coming in future years.

The following is a list of the immediate safety upgrades and their status:

- **Upgraded lighting completed with new lighting installation occurring now** - upgrading and adding LED lighting along the entire corridor.
- Improving intersection turn signals for drivers and pedestrians - **estimated to be completed by 1/31/2022.**
- Upgrading pedestrian detectors at traffic signals that will extend the crossing time for pedestrians, when needed - **estimated to be completed by 1/31/2022.**
- **Completed** - refreshing and adding pavement markings and striping.
- **Completed** - adding two marked crosswalks in the downtown area.
- Installing speed feedback signs - **estimated to be completed by 1/31/2022.**
- **Completed** - marking bike lane conflict areas.
- **Completed** - maintaining and replacing signs.
- **Completed** - updating an existing short barrier with tall concrete barrier along the OR 126 Expressway approaching Main Street to help direct pedestrians to safer

crossing locations.

These are things that will make a positive difference now and into the future.

### ***How will these immediate safety upgrades work with the Main Street Safety Project?***

With the Main Street Safety Project moving toward adoption of a facility plan, it will bring needed larger scale safety changes to help increase safety for everyone using the street. ODOT and the City of Springfield are working together on the immediate safety upgrades to ensure that the work ODOT does now serves the community as we move toward long-term corridor safety goals. For example, lighting upgrades support what we've heard from the community during engagement rounds for the project.

These smaller, immediate safety upgrades support the work that is coming in future years after the Main Street Facility Plan is adopted, and funding for design and construction has been secured. These upgrades will be flexible, and equipment can be repurposed into the longer-term construction projects, with some providing more data to help inform future design decisions.

For more information, [visit ODOT's project webpage](#).

## **Upcoming Meetings - Public Hearings**

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The project team has scheduled their next meetings with the Planning Commission, and City Council to hold public hearings.

- Planning Commission Public Hearing - Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm
- City Council Public Hearing - Monday, April 6 at 7:00 pm

**We will send additional e-updates once details and documents have been finalized.**

## **Share with Others**

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**Forward this email to other community members** you know who may like to be informed about the Main Street Safety Project and receive email updates automatically. They can use the button below to sign up!

**Sign Up for E-Updates**

## **Project Purpose**

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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 and the City must address this problem to save lives, reduce injuries, and lessen property damage due to crashes. The purpose of the Main Street Safety Project 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.



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