

South Main Street Water Main Replacement and Resurfacing Project Public Engagement Meeting #2 Discussion Summary

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Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Public present: 2

Council members present: None

City staff present: 3; Michael Nearing, Heather Seyfarth, Chris Wall (WT)

Wade Trim staff present: 2; Vaughn Martin, Carmelle Tremblay

Re: South Main Street Water Main Replacement and Resurfacing Project

Note: The following is not a direct transcription of the meeting discussion. This summary has been prepared from notes taken during the meeting; comments are paraphrased for brevity.

Audience Questions/Comments

The following questions/comments were brought up by the audience. Staff responses are marked with an '**A**' and denoted in italics. Where clarifications or responses have been added after the meeting, these are denoted as '**Post-Meeting Note**'.

1. Have you heard anything further about the Fourth Avenue Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Project? It is important to coordinate projects to ensure construction shutdowns do not occur simultaneously downtown. There has been some frustration among business owners in 2021 because of all the combined closures for the downtown construction projects.

A. The project team has previously reached out to the DDA and did not get a sense that the Fourth Avenue project would be occurring at the same time as the S Main Street water main project (2023).

The project team has also had discussions with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC) regarding proposed projects within the vicinity of the project area. These projects include:

- 4th & Catherine Lot
- 350 S. 5th Ave.
- 353 S Main (Palio Lot)

These conversations with the DDA and AAHC will continue as the project design progresses to ensure proper coordination during construction and to mitigate overall disturbance to businesses and residents in the collective area.

Post-meeting Note: *Currently, the DDA has scheduled Fourth Avenue to be constructed during 2024/2025 as part of the People Friendly Streets initiative.*

2. Will the project website continue to be updated as you determine more about existing conditions (in particular, the existing trolley track foundations) and how those may affect construction duration?
 - A. *A final determination has not been made at this time if the trolley tracks will be removed in their entirety. However, if it is determined necessary to remove them, we do not anticipate their removal to drastically extend the construction timeline. At this time, we assume the removal of the foundations in their entirety may account for an additional 1-2 weeks in each construction stage (1 or 2 stages). If the time is taken during this project to remove the tracks in their entirety, future construction projects along the corridor will likely require less construction disturbance and duration.*

3. Closing down Main Street in two stages seems to be the most plausible option. If a problem occurs during one phase, the second phase can potentially still stay on track. In addition, seeing a lack of activity during construction brings concern to businesses along the corridor. If the entire corridor is shutdown all at once, who will that benefit – is there a cost savings?
 - A. *The City's goal, and that of this project and it's team members is to implement projects in a manner that best serves it's citizens. The overarching goal is to take care of businesses and be mindful of everyone's needs. The project team is also leaning toward segmented construction because it provides flexibility. Past polling of business owners and residents in the area also seemed to slightly favor phased construction.*

4. Signage and communication during construction is very important. As an example, water main installation on Main Street in Lake Placid, New York, used very successful and clear construction signage. Local hotels in the area also provided information on the closure and what to expect. Is it possible to implement something similar for this project?



- A. *The project team welcomes input and ideas to help us execute a successful communication plan as part of this project. Please continue to share your thoughts and we will make every effort to incorporate them into our project implementation.*