



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of April 10, 2023

Title/Subject

SE 2nd St Gateway Design Presentation

Summary and Background

Gateway improvements are a planned project in the Downtown Urban Renewal District (district). A redesign and realignment of the SE 2nd Street/Highway 395 intersection has been budgeted for the district for this year. The proposed change in this intersection will enhance the safety of an existing dangerous intersection and beautify and enhance an entrance to the downtown. The existing landscape island in the intersection will also be removed entirely.

Safety improvements will be accomplished through a change in intersection geometry as shown on Exhibit A to this report. SE 2nd St currently intersects Highway 395 at an acute angle creating very poor sight conditions for vehicles attempting to leave SE 2nd St and enter the highway. Simultaneously, the oblique angle of departure for northbound highway traffic entering SE 2nd St leads vehicles to enter SE 2nd St at a high rate of speed, creating potentially dangerous conditions for vehicles turning left into the Community Center and Papa Murphys. The realignment changes the intersection geometry to a right-angle intersection and narrows SE 2nd Street to be a one-way only northbound street for a short distance to the north Community Center driveway. In essence, the left turn movement from SE 2nd Street onto Highway 395 will be eliminated entirely and vehicles will need to use the existing intersections at Newport and Hurlburt to enter Highway 395. SE 2nd St remains a two-way street from E Newport Ave south to the north Community Center driveway. The existing Highway 395 driveway for the Community Center will be eliminated and new sidewalk and curbing installed.

A significant new landscape improvement is planned for both sides of SE 2nd Street. Landscape renderings prepared by Greenworks and Anderson Perry are shown on Exhibit B to this report. New curb, gutter, ADA ramps, and sidewalk are planned along the entire Highway frontage. This is approximately 250 feet of new pedestrian improvements on Highway 395, creating a safer pedestrian crossing at SE 2nd St. New seat walls, constructed to match the existing Festival Street seat walls are planned. These walls are also designed with a low height to preserve sight lines for vehicular traffic. Additionally, columnar downtown signage is planned to bracket each side of the street, creating a true entrance to the downtown district. This signage is compliant with the adopted wayfinding signage plan and is planned as bilingual

signage. One column will be English language and one column will be Spanish language if the council so desires.

The total budget for the project is \$450,000. The district has allocated \$400,000 in the 2022-23 urban renewal budget for this project. ODOT has also committed \$50,000 in safety improvement funds to the project. The design of the project, including geometry, ADA access, and other factors has been reviewed and approved by ODOT staff.

City staff held a public meeting on this design on March 29 at the Community Center. All property owners either abutting the construction site, or who will see a change in traffic pattern as a result of the improvements were invited. Five property owners attended. No objections were raised at the meeting. Property owners supported the improvements but did request that the city be mindful of existing business signage when choosing tree species and to choose landscape design that would be well-maintained and would not collect windblown trash and debris. The parks department has conferred with the landscape architect and feels the concerns are addressable in the final design.

No action is necessary from the city council at this meeting. Anderson Perry and Greenworks are finalizing the design documents and preparing for bid advertisement on April 24. If the council is agreeable to the design, bidding will proceed as planned. Any changes requested by the council can be incorporated into the design at this time as well.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Urban renewal downtown revitalization is a continuing council priority.

Fiscal Information

The project budget is \$450,000. The concrete, paving and road work is estimated at \$300,000 and the remaining \$150,000 will be used for landscape improvements.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

The council should consider the submitted design and recommend any alterations to the overall plan.

Recommended Action/Motion

No action is needed at this time.

Submitted By:

Clinton Spencer, Planning Director