

To: Ketchum City Council
Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency

cc. Mountain Express-Letter to the Editor.

Dear City Officials,

I applaud the City and KURA for proactively addressing the main street redesign. I like the 30% conceptual design but would like to offer some suggestions that might benefit the pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic through Main Street.

I believe that a 5-lane design is mandatory for any intersection between River Street and 6th Street that would allow any left turns. I also believe that 2nd & 4th Street should be converted to a One-Way Street (for at least 1 block) departing from Main Street and heading One Way in their respective directions. The elimination of the opposing traffic lane will allow diagonal parking in addition to wider sidewalks on these side streets.

I would like to eliminate more parking on Main Street and replace it with larger sidewalks and specific "Bike Parking Areas" complete with secure racks, and protection from traffic. Instead of Bulb Outs, how about Bulb In's where there would be room for 1 or 2 cars to briefly stop for taxis, Uber & Door Dash, and a larger sidewalk encompassing the rest of the block? Jade Riley spoke of something about the curb appeal perception to motorists driving through town. Let me tell you, having an easy place to park and leave my car for several hours to walk around town and hang out on the active sidewalks is a lot more enticing to me than trying to park a Mini Cooper, let alone a Suburban, on Main.

Pedestrians and bikes crossing Main will be aided by the stop lights at 1st, 3rd, & 5th. High speed HAWK lights could be installed at 2nd, 4th, and 6th. All crossings at River St. would be prohibited.

Second Street could mirror 4th as a major pedestrian & bike artery to both the East and West. Of course, following 2nd to the West for 3 blocks could lead visitors and residents alike to a large parking structure that could be acquired and built by the municipality if they had the foresight and drive. Same goes with the community housing development on the Simplot property at the bottom of 4th, 5th, & 6th.

North/South vehicular traffic must progress through town much quicker. The sub 3-minute crossing statistic from 6th to River Street is laughable and pathetic. Eliminating left turns and adding specific turn lanes will be a good start. Installing quicker reacting Hawk lights that could possibly be tied into related stop lights would allow pedestrians to cross more efficiently and eliminate the vehicular stop and go.

Now about the Bulb Outs. I understand they increase pedestrian safety however, it appears that our society has devolved from it's ability to safely use them. I'm talking about the

inattentive pedestrian who likes to hang 10 toes on the edge of the curb while staring at their phone. If the city decides to pursue the curb out design, I urge them to employ some dress up cowboys to stand at the intersections and move them little-doggies along with a bullwhip. Actually, I see the need for the Cowboys & Whips in numerous situations throughout my hometown.

Thank you for considering my suggestions. I urge you to incorporate them into the permanent design.

Jed Sidwell

Blaine County-South of the Dump.

From: [Baird Gourlay](#)
To: [Participate](#)
Subject: Project Main St
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023 9:25:51 AM

Really good first design. I have two concerns.

1. I own PK's on Leadville. We have had issues with the trees that are planted in front, primarily from the branches being too low and the trunks being too close to the street. So they scratched cars, prevented car door from being able to open. Created pedestrian issues, etc. Please make sure they are big enough and planted far enough from the street to prevent these issues.
2. I'm super concerned about 6th and Main and WS rd. The current design is unacceptable. Consider you're a first time visitor driving north at night, when it's raining or snowing, heading toward Galena, you're in the left lane, which seems fine and the correct way to drive, not seeing the paint on the rd, and all of a sudden a car is in your lane heading south and trying to turn onto 6th. OUCH. My solution:
NO LEFT TURN on to 6th from Hiway 75 coming from the North...it really simplifies the issue and I think if you did a survey, you'd find that very few people turn left at this location.

From: [Joel Jarolimek](#)
To: [Participate](#)
Subject: Main Street
Date: Friday, November 10, 2023 12:17:04 PM

I like the 2 lanes each way on Main Street and the plans that have been drawn so far. Big jam ups I notice are left turns at the Wood River Drive and 5th Street intersections. May be addressed with the traffic lights? Especially bad at 5th street heading north.

Sent from my iPad