

Montgomery MEDC
AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 19, 2024	Budgeted Amount: N/A
Department:	Prepared By: DMc

Subject

Consideration and possible action on a McCown Street Improvements Project update.

Recommendation

Staff recommends proceeding with OPTION A – making McCown Street a one-way street (northbound) between the Caroline and College Street intersections.

Discussion

Issue:

The McCown Street Improvements project consultant – Ardurra Group, Inc. (engineering) and Kimley-Horn (landscape architecture) – need direction on a design solution in order to move forward with the project work. Members of the design team will be at the meeting to discuss this item with the Board.

Analysis:

The design team presented a preliminary design for McCown Street to the MEDC on 08/21/23. In the Downtown Master Plan, McCown Street was proposed to have a mid-block plaza between College and Caroline Streets that restricted or eliminated car traffic in that portion of the street. The street plaza concept relied on gaining formal access through the Old Montgomery Steakhouse parking lot. Following the design update presentation, MEDC directed staff and consultants to pause the project until conversations with the owner of Old Montgomery Steakhouse affirmed whether the parking lot access could be settled. City staff met with the owner of OMSH and affirmed that his view had changed since previous discussions and he was no longer interested in partnering in a shared solution on the project. Given the change in project parameters, a clearer set of options presents itself for decision and MEDC Board direction:

OPTION A (attached)

Make McCown Street one-way between Caroline & College Streets. This solution devotes less space to vehicles (one lane instead of two) and provides more pedestrian space (10-12' total width). Staff and consultants recommend proceeding with this option.

OPTION B (attached)

McCown Street remains two way (north and south traffic). Staff and consultants do not recommend this option.

Conclusion:

Enhanced paving within the street can be incorporated with both options as originally intended. Street closures can be done the same way as they are currently done for events.

Approved By

Assistant City Administrator	Dave McCorquodale	Date: 03/15/2024
------------------------------	-------------------	------------------