



AGENDA REPORT

City Council Meeting

TODAY'S DATE: February 25, 2025

MEETING DATE: March 5, 2025

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Erik Bush, Project Manager

SUBJECT: Update on the Downtown Revitalization Phase 3 Project

BACKGROUND/ DESCRIPTION:

On December 5, 2012, City Council adopted the Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide, envisioning Downtown Sandpoint as the “Hub of the Inland Northwest”—a vibrant and welcoming destination for dining, entertainment, shopping, art, and recreation, fostering a strong sense of community throughout the year. The effort to revitalize Downtown Sandpoint began in the early 2000s, with significant contributions from business owners, property owners, community members, consultants, and City representatives working collaboratively to plan, design, secure funding, and implement improvements.

On May 5, 2021, City Council adopted the Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTMP), which refined the concept for completing the third/final phase of the SURA-funded Downtown Revitalization Project. This phase involves a full reconstruction of First Avenue from Church Street to at least Lake Street, as well as short-term improvements identified in the MTMP at Bridge Street and First Avenue.

On November 15, 2023, City Council adopted an additional report recommending improvements to First Avenue to support new development. These improvements include specialty paving, planting beds, street trees, street furnishings, wayfinding, and signage. A new intersection configuration at Bridge Street and First Avenue is also planned to improve pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow. South of Bridge Street, the plan incorporates expanded sidewalks to accommodate a multi-use pathway and angled parking. The Report also envisions a traffic circle at First and Superior, under a phase 4 improvement.

Phases 1 and 2, completed between 2018 and 2021, improved Cedar Street (from Fifth Avenue to First Avenue) and First Avenue (from Cedar Street to Church Street). These improvements, funded by the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA), provided upgraded pedestrian sidewalk, improved stormwater management, and enhanced public spaces.

The City of Sandpoint is now set to commence the design phase for Phase 3 of the Downtown Revitalization project. This phase will align with the Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide, the Multimodal Transportation Master Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan. The key objectives of this revitalization effort are to enhance downtown connectivity, improve multimodal infrastructure, and support economic growth.

Phase 3 will extend the improvements along First Avenue from Church Street to approximately Pine Street, including portions of Bridge Street. The project scope includes:

- Wider sidewalks to improve pedestrian accessibility.
- Street furniture and landscaping to enhance public spaces and aesthetics.
- Parking upgrades to optimize downtown usability.

- Bioretention cells for stormwater treatment before discharge into Sand Creek.
- Public art installations to enrich Sandpoint's cultural environment.

Funding for Phase 3 will continue through the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA).

The next step in the process is to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to engage a design consultant. Following this, a request for approval of a Professional Services Agreement for design services will be presented to the City Council. The selected consultant will reference multiple guiding documents to ensure consistency with prior phases, including the Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide (streetscape standards and planning goals), Multimodal Transportation Plan (mobility and accessibility improvements), and the Downtown Waterfront Design Competition Stage 3 Design Report (stormwater management and lighting).

The design process will incorporate “lessons learned” from Phases 1 and 2, conduct site survey, conduct a traffic study, and construction document development to create a seamless streetscape along First Avenue from Cedar Street to the south.

A public engagement plan will be presented to the Council for consideration and approval. This plan aims to promote transparency, gather community input, and encourage stakeholder participation throughout the design process. Engagement strategies will include Public Meetings & Open Houses, Stakeholder Workshops, Online Surveys & Feedback Forms, Project Website & Social Media Updates, Press Releases & Newsletters, and Advisory Committee Briefings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: No Action Requested

ACTION: No Action Required

WILL THERE BE ANY FINANCIAL IMPACT? YES HAS THIS ITEM BEEN BUDGETED? YES;
within FY25 budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Concept Comparison
2. Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide – First and Cedar Concept
3. Multimodal Transportation Master Plan – First and Bridge Concepts
4. Downtown Waterfront Design Competition – First Ave Concept
5. Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide – First and Superior

LINKS:

1. [Downtown Streets Plan and Design Guide](https://www.sandpointidaho.gov/media/3541) - <https://www.sandpointidaho.gov/media/3541>
2. [Multimodal Transportation Master Plan](https://www.sandpointidaho.gov/media/3491) - <https://www.sandpointidaho.gov/media/3491>
3. [Downtown Waterfront Design Competition Stage 3 Design Report](https://www.sandpointidaho.gov/media/3641) - <https://www.sandpointidaho.gov/media/3641>
4. [Cleargov Project Page](https://sandpoint-id.cleargov.com/projects/14340/downtown-revitalization-phase-3) - <https://sandpoint-id.cleargov.com/projects/14340/downtown-revitalization-phase-3>