



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Conversion of 10th and 13th Avenues between Main Street and Long Street to One-Way Traffic Only

Preferred Agenda: November 13, 2023

Submitted By: Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director

Reviewed By: Kelcey Young, City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution X Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: SHMC 10.04.030, 10.08.150

Towards Council Goal: Construct Phase 1 of Streetscape Plan, Construct 10th Avenue EV Charging Station

Attachments: Resolution No. 30 for 2023

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to present a resolution to convert 10th and 13th Avenues between Main Street and Long Street to one-way traffic only, in accordance with the Downtown Streetscape and Parking Plan.

Background/Context:

In 2021, the City completed a Downtown Streetscape and Parking Plan. The intent of the project was to create a standard plan for landscaping, trees, lighting, signage, street furniture and parking in the downtown core (identified as the Main and Long Street Corridors between 9th avenue and 18th Avenue). Ultimately, the goal is to make downtown Sweet Home a more appealing place for residents and visitors by beautifying the public right-of-way and making the area more pedestrian friendly. Private businesses and property owners will be able to capitalize on this increase foot traffic by beautifying their own properties and increasing the offered products and services in the area. As part of the project, three public meetings were held on March 25th, June 15th, and December 14th 2021 in order to gather feedback from the public. The final plan was adopted by the City Council on March 22nd, 2022.

Later in 2022, the City received an Oregon Clean Fuels Electric Mobility Grant from Pacific Power to construct an electric vehicle charging station on 10th Avenue. The design of this charging was made based on the adopted Streetscape Plan and requires that 10th Avenue be changed to one-way traffic in order to have sufficient room for the project.

At the October 24th Council meeting, the Council heard comments from concerned citizens and discussed changes to the parking and flow of traffic. While the parking design is completely within the authority of the City Manager, the flow of traffic is determined by the Council. Staff is continuing to work with neighboring property owners to solidify a parking design that works for everyone. The Council directive at the meeting was for staff to return this item with one specific change: that both streets be changed to one-way southbound traffic only, rather than one of

them having one-way northbound traffic. Staff have updated the resolution to reflect this directive.

The Challenge/Problem:

How does the City accomplish its goal of constructing Phase 1 of the Downtown Streetscape and Parking Plan and constructing an electric vehicle charging station on 10th Avenue?

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home Residents – Residents deserve an appealing and walkable downtown area with sufficient parking where they can spend their leisure time and find the services and products they want.
- Downtown Businesses and Property Owners – Downtown Businesses and Property Owners deserve a public right-of-way next to their buildings that properly directs the flow of both vehicle and foot traffic and provides typical downtown amenities that attract visitors and create a pleasant experience for patrons.
- Sweet Home City Council – The City Council has the responsibility of establishing or altering traffic controls within the City.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The cost of this portion of the project is limited to signage, paint, and traffic delineators. The overall cost of changing the traffic flow on these streets is estimated at less than \$5,000

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution includes making the changes to traffic flow necessary to comply with the adopted Downtown Streetscape and Parking Plan and to fulfill City Council goals.

Options:

1. Do Nothing – Doing nothing will halt both the Phase 1 of the Downtown Streetscape and Parking Plan and the EV Charging Station project.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 30 for 2023 as proposed – This action will allow City Staff to install the signage and paint that will make the change effective.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 30 for 2023 with Changes – The Council could specify changes to this resolution and direct City Staff to install the signage and paint that will make the change effective.
4. Direct Staff to Research Other Options

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2: Adopt Resolution No. 30 for 2023 as proposed.