

MEMO

TO: Chairperson Steven Board and Commission Members
FROM: Andrew Beyer, P.E.
DATE: August 8, 2024
RE: Public Works Commission Agenda Narrative for August 13, 2024

Agenda Item:

Review and take possible action: E. Main Street Parking between Market Street and Irene Street in conjunction with WisDOT roadway improvement project

BACKGROUND

In June of 2022, the Public Works Commission reviewed parking on E. Main Street between Market Street and Irene Street as part of an upcoming Wisconsin Department of Transportation roadway project, 3050-04-70. The purpose of the 2022 action item was to determine if WisDOT was to widen the roadway to accommodate parking on both sides of the street. Whereas there is currently parking on both sides of the street and two-sided parking is allowable per city standards, the existing pavement width does not meet WisDOT standards for two-sided parking on state trunk highways. Costs associated with parking lanes on state trunk highway projects are the responsibility of the local municipality and would be borne by the City of Watertown for the project. Below is the narrative provided to the Public Works Commission in 2022:

Review and take possible action: One side parking on E. Main Street between Market – Irene:

To prepare the Financial Agreement with WisDOT for the project east of Market Street (3050-04-70) the parking area needs to be clarified. Currently the street width does not provide enough room for parking on both sides of the street. To provide parking on one side of the street, the new centerline could be shifted two feet to provide more room on the side of the street with parking. An estimated cost for parking on one side of the street is \$150,000. Would the city like to provide parking on one side of the street, or should this segment be marked as No Parking, or should the street be widened and provide parking on both sides of the street which would cost the City an additional \$150,000? Once discussed Engineering will respond back to WisDOT. It should be noted that this item was presented to Public Safety & Welfare Committee (PS&W) at their May 4th meeting. That Committee made the recommendation to only provide parking on the north side of the street based on one resident's comments of current parking patterns and based on cost to the City. Resident letters were mailed out to all property owners along this segment of Main Street, but only one resident attended the PS&W Committee meeting. Since Public Works Commission is involved in Engineering standards of the City's streets, Engineering wanted to also bring this item before this body for discussion and determination.

The Public Works Commission had previously approved guiding WisDOT to move forward with designing the roadway to accommodate two-sided parking, and a State/Municipal Financial Agreement was drafted reflecting the City's additional cost for a widened parking lane.

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City staff met with the WisDOT design team on 7/29/2024 regarding parking and updated parking costs to widen the roadway. After further review, a retaining wall would need to be installed to accommodate two-sided parking which would significantly increase the city's financial obligation on the project. Where two-sided parking on E. Main Street between Market Street and Irene Street was initially estimated to cost \$300,000 in 2022, the most current estimate which incorporates retaining walls is now estimated to cost \$760,000. If parking were to be limited to the north side, the cost to the City is estimated to be \$351,000. WisDOT is seeking guidance from the City on which direction to proceed. Once guidance is provided to WisDOT, the State Municipal Financial Agreement will be revised and forwarded onto the city for review and approval.

Attachments:

- Site Map