



MAIN STREET

Reconstruction News

Picture of girder delivery coming from media department.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS MEET-UP RECAP

The Watertown Main Street Program recently hosted its second quarterly Downtown Business Meet-Up meeting on Monday, January 6th, 2025. This was an opportunity for downtown business and property owners to hear updates about the 2028 Main Street reconstruction and learn additional details of the planning.

Around 30 members of the public attended the meeting, as well as several city staff and Common Council members. Andrew Beyer, the City's Director of Public Works, led a recap presentation.

Topics discussed included potential locations of new streetscape trees and underground stormwater facilities, which will be included as part of the 2028 reconstruction project. Locations were selected by city staff, in conjunction with McMahon (an engineering firm based in Neenah, WI).

Utility improvements and locations of proposed curb bumpouts were also discussed.

Over 20 questions were asked, and City staff engaged in conversation with residents during and after the meeting.

The next quarterly Downtown Business Meet-Up meeting will likely be scheduled after a new director of the Watertown Main Street Program is hired and on-boarded.

IMPORTANT DATES

Next Main Street Task Force Meeting:
March 25, 2025 2:30 PM

Next quarterly Downtown Business Meet-Up: TBD
(please watch for announcements from the Watertown Main Street Program)

Reconstruction of Main Street (Cole) Bridge:
Currently started, anticipated to re-open for traffic by early April, 2025

Evaluation of downtown one-way streets: Started in May 2024, finished report expected by mid-2025

Further planning & work on public parking lots and other necessities: 2025-2027

Spring 2028: Full reconstruction of Main Street, from Church Street to Market Street/Sharp Corner Park expected to begin

2030: Reconstruction of E. Main Street, from Market Street/Sharp Corner Park to Irene Street.

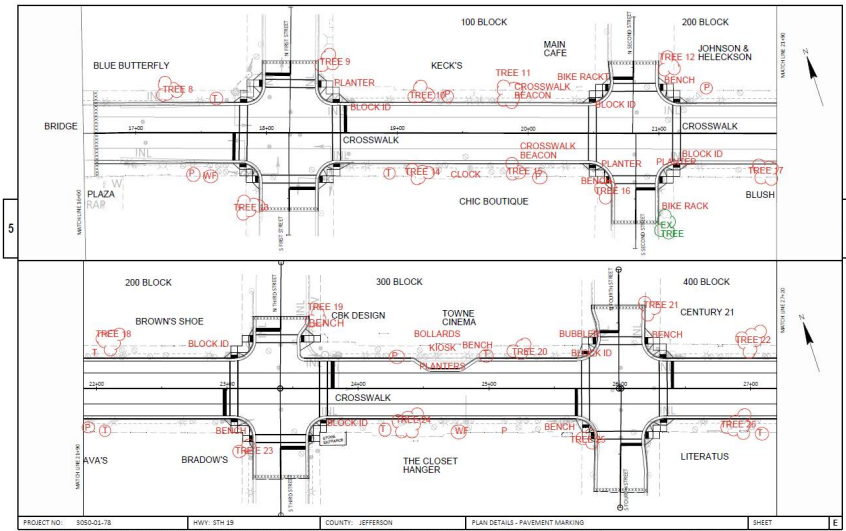
STREETSCAPE PLANNING

Planning for 2028 includes recommended placements of potential streetscape enhancements, including items like trees and pavers, which not only enhance the appearance of our downtown, but can help mitigate stormwater drainage issues.

Stormwater Trees can be planted in grid systems under the sidewalk and/or street. The grid systems provide space for tree roots to grow as well as storage/pollutant removal for stormwater management.

Permeable pavers allow rain and snow melt to flow between individual paver blocks into specifically designed gravel and soils underground.

An example image showing potential placements is shown to the left.



YOUR TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- MAYOR EMILY MCFARLAND
- ALDERMAN MYRON MOLDENHAUER
- ALDERMAN STEVE BOARD
- VACANT - WATERTOWN MAIN STREET PROGRAM
- ANDREW GRINWALD - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REP.
- ANDREW BEYER - DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
- LAURIE HOFFMANN - CITIZEN-AT-LARGE
- AMBER SMITH - DOWNTOWN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE
- MICHELLE ELLIAS - WISCONSIN DOT
- MICHAEL TREGO - HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DESIGN COMMISSION
- RYAN WAGNER - WATERTOWN RDA CHAIR
- MASON BECKER - MGR. OF ECON. DEV. & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



MAIN STREET BRIDGE LATEST

Like all of you, we are eagerly awaiting the completion of the Main Street bridge. We do believe the wait will be worth it!

Recently, there has been a delay to the installation of the girders that will form the major supports of the underside of the bridge deck. While installation was hoped to happen the week of January 13th, the extremely cold temperatures have slightly delayed that.

Bridge girders are now being delivered and placed as of January 23rd. The police and streets department are coordinating road closures and traffic re-routing as needed during this time period.

The City is also having temporary mats placed to allow access to businesses near the bridge, while necessary sidewalk work is underway.

Re-opening of the bridge is still planned for early spring of this year.

Follow the City's Facebook page for weekly updates on the project.

