



Schematics show the location of new signage (right) and the overall streetscape design under consideration for the Refinement Plan, which was approved two year ago, but according to city staff, can be tweaked if the city receives the BUILD Grant later this year.

MAIN from A1

(ADA) and the plan details a scenario in which the streets could be widened. Mayor Jeff Gowing spoke out against the plan to widen the streets during the July 16 meeting, noting that Main Street businesses may place tables on the widened streets and expand their businesses.

The streets in downtown are currently eight to 10 feet wide. The plan states this, "... does not allow for pedestrian flow and the use of sidewalks as social areas." It also notes the lack of space for bicyclists on the street as well as the limited parking on Main Street.

Two options are outlined in the plan. The first would see the sidewalks expanded to 12-and-a-half feet, an eight-foot parking lane and two 12-foot travel lanes. The second plan would expand the sidewalks to 14 feet and include a 7-foot parking lane and two 11-foot wide travel lanes.

The plans were discussed on Dec. 4, 2013, during a public meeting where a "festival street" on Main and Seventh was also proposed.

While the city does not have to adhere to the plan if it receives the grant money, it does need to alter the sidewalks downtown in order to comply with federal

law. "At some point we may be challenged by a private party for failure to comply with the ADA," Ferguson said. "Several jurisdictions in Oregon have recently settled legal challenges over ADA compliance, which have forced them to begin aggressive plans to bring their sidewalk and street systems into compliance."

The plan also details the possibility of stamped or in-laid patterns in the sidewalk for decoration.

**The Trees:**

In August of 2014, a petition with more than 1,000 signatures was submitted to the city to save the trees that would be removed if the sidewalks and streets were altered under the proposed plan. "Two arborists reports were prepared, with correlating findings recommending the removal of approximately half the current trees, based on their current condition," the plan states. A The plan was altered in October of 2014 to include trees.

**The Decorations:**

The refinement plan puts an emphasis on sprucing up downtown Main Street. Under aesthetic features, it details

the possible addition of new benches, water fountains and brick pavement. "An anchoring element, such as a significant piece of art of clock" is suggested for All-America Square or across from the square on 7th Street.

And while Main Street currently features flowers baskets and planters, the plan suggests incorporating additional plants and flowers.

**The Utilities:**

Main Street may already have flowers but it doesn't have a way to water them. Currently, volunteers drive down the street on a golf cart with a water tank to make sure the flower baskets get adequate water. The refinement plan would see water installed on Main Street.

The plan outlines new water and electrical lines for the area and during the July 16 meeting, city staff noted that the city's infrastructure had already suffered at least one break this winter outside of the downtown area and would need to be addressed.

**Other possibilities:**

The plan mentions the possibility of a second Gateway Arch at the west end of Main

Street, awnings over building facades and outlines a lighting plan that would see new lighting fixtures up and down the street.

**What's next:**

The city council approved the motion to allow staff to apply for the grant that would award the city \$10 million to implement the plan. According to the city council and city staff, the plan can be altered from its current form and city manager Richard Meyers stated a public process would be implemented to discuss those alterations before the city moved forward if it was granted the funds.

The refinement plan can be viewed in its entirety at cottagegrove.org by searching "Main Street Refinement Plan."

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