



City Commission Work Session Minutes

January 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioners Marty Sullivan, Craig Russell, Kris Cruzada, and Todd Weaver; City Manager Randy Knight; Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle; and City Clerk Rene Cranis.

Also Present

Alex Stringfellow and Taylor Brock, Stringfellow Planning and Design

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor DeCiccio called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Discussion Item (s)

a. Park Avenue Refresh project

Director of Communications Clarissa Howard provided the background of this project. She summarized communication and surveys and noted that this is a refresh to maintain the charm of the Avenue, enhance safety and improve infrastructure.

Mr. Stringfellow gave a presentation on the intent, staff and stakeholder recommendations for lighting, landscape/hardscape and technology and short-term opportunities. He reviewed survey results and findings using images to reflect inconsistencies in landscaping, planters, trash receptacles, light poles, and architecture. Phase I, with anticipated completion in the fall of 2025, covers Park Avenue between Fairbanks and Comstock. Recommended changes include gateway signage, new electrical, improved landscaping and planters, reconfiguration/refresh of brick planters, replacement of trash cans, creating curb extensions (bulb outs) with bollards, and eliminating unnecessary signage. Potential future projects include West Meadow Master Plan, Morse Blvd. and New England refresh, side street projects and whistle stop station. Additional discussion is needed on side streets, future phasing, ride sharing, infrastructure, car charging, autonomous vehicle opportunities and fans and misters for seasonal cooling.

Comments and discussion followed on the following:

- Side streets - fix wiring and tree wells during construction.
- Sidewalks - will be looked at closely during design phase to repair and level as needed with construction done at night.
- Phasing and timeline - question of starting at the north end of Park Avenue, rationale for starting at the south end (utility connection). Additional information is needed on electric utilities on the north end and also to determine timing due to St.

Margaret Mary school schedule and art festivals. Concerns were raised about workers during the summer.

- Charging stations – preference to be on side streets rather than Park Avenue.
- Parking ap for visitors to the city to find parking - will reduce amount of traffic on Park Avenue. (To be looked at by staff and consultant.)
- Most needed improvement is repair/replacement of electrical wiring. New conduit/ electrical is planned for all of Park Avenue.
- Bulb outs - could create bottlenecking traffic at intersections. Will be designed to accommodate turn movements include fire trucks. Safety of parallel parking and extension into no parking areas.
- Bus stops - repurpose bus stops for pickup/drop off for ride sharing/Uber/Lyft. Create wayfinding for drivers to drop off and pick up. Use for resting stations during warmer weather. May not be in the best locations.
- Fans and misters at ride sharing stops and on light poles (replacing planters) during warmer weather (will enhance summer traffic to Park Avenue).
- Use tall planters in lieu of round bollards
- Shade canopy in hot months in the absence of trees.
- Wayfinding - replacing shop signs on side streets with arrows designating parking areas with shop signs below. Unsafe to use ap while driving.
- Smooth surface for safety of persons with limited mobility.
- Funding - multiple funding sources - electric utility, CRA.
- Infrastructure improvements - water service is on Center Street. No significant issues with stormwater, but need to ensure continued.
- Autonomous driving opportunities - striping, reflectors. Difficulties with brick streets. More about communication technology - allowing for extra conduit for additional fiber if needed to facilitate.
- Parking Lot at the train station - Consider a single deck parking level with 1/2 level parking deck underground. Use CRA funds. Evaluate as part of West Meadow master plan.

Mr. Stringfellow said the next step is to present to the commission in February for direction to proceed with construction documents and estimated cost in late spring and final approval by the commission.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

ATTEST:

City Clerk Rene Cranis