



Downtown Infrastructure Improvement and Reconstruction Project PROCESS REVIEW, WHAT COMES NEXT, & TIMELINE

January 11, 2023

Where are we in the process?

- The Mayor's Ad-Hoc Steering Committee reached a consensus recommendation for the major components of the project at their December 13, 2022, meeting. Those recommendations were forwarded to the City Council, who will ultimately decide on the scope of the project. This includes the utilities infrastructure that connects to downtown buildings underground to the full width of downtown sidewalks and roadways on Main Street, Gilbo Ave., Railroad St. and Central Square. Because the sidewalks and roadways will already be excavated, the design process includes unique opportunities to consider reconstruction options that improve pedestrian ways, traffic flow, accessibility, multimodal options, and community space.

How did we get to this point in the project?

- The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) review process starts with City staff presenting detailed recommendations to the City Council for projects that address the priority capital needs of the City. Each CIP approval process includes project proposals, public hearings and City Council adoption via the budget process. This particular project was added to the CIP in 2017 and each year thereafter with the explanation that the existing infrastructure has exceeded its useful life or is under capacity and that it provides an opportunity to update space for community activity into the long term. Most recently, it was included in the fiscal years 2023 to 2029 CIP budget that was reviewed and adopted by the City Council last spring.
- The Ad-Hoc Downtown Infrastructure Project Steering Committee was created with the City Council's approval in March, 2022, to review the scope and design of utility replacements as well as improvements to the downtown area. Its first monthly public meeting convened in April, 2022. There were twelve members on the committee including representatives of downtown businesses and residents as well as members of the City Council. The committee held its last meeting in December, 2022, where it advanced the preliminary design concept recommendation to the City Council. The committee's agendas and minutes can be viewed at <https://keeneh.gov/downtown-infrastructure-project-steering-committee>, and the detailed presentations made by the consultant, Stantec, at these meetings are posted on the project website which is available from the www.KeeneNH.gov home page.
- The Stantec team conducted traffic studies, infrastructure analyses and multiple public workshops that yielded the information necessary to share informed options with the steering committee and the general public. City staff including Public Works, Emergency Services, Parking, Community Development, and Parks & Recreation representatives met with the Stantec team as well to review and discuss technical requirements. Considerations for vehicular traffic (including emergency vehicles, buses and large trucks – see 11/15/22 presentation) pedestrian ways, parking, multimodal options, and community space were informed by this work.

What comes next?

- The Council will be reviewing the preliminary design concept recommended by the steering committee and will participate in a number of public informational sessions before a decision on the scope of the project is made. Once the Council has decided what improvements will be constructed, the final design process will

begin for all aspects of the project.

- Two public informational meetings are scheduled at this time including 1) January 30th, 2023, starting with an open house at 5:00 PM where City Staff and representatives of Stantec will be present to answer questions one-on-one with members of the public followed by a brief presentation and further opportunities for the public to learn more and ask questions; and 2) February 21st, at 6:00 PM at the Keene High School auditorium including a presentation on the scope of the various options in the project, a roll-up of the public comments received at the first meeting, and an opportunity to provide further comments.

Timeline Downtown Infrastructure Improvement & Reconstruction Project

