

March 16, 2015

Greetings,

The City of Ukiah would like to inform you about a major community improvement project that will likely impact you in the next couple of years—the Ukiah Downtown Streetscape Project. You may have heard bits and pieces about this project already, as planning for this project was started in 2008. The goal of this project is to improve the aesthetics of the downtown area, enhance accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve the traffic circulation. Ultimately, we expect this project will also help drive customer traffic to the downtown and increase property values.

The Ukiah Downtown Streetscape Project will include:

- an environmental review phase (starting in 2015)
- a design phase (in 2015, where we'll be looking for your input), and
- construction, most likely in 2016

We know that you will have questions and concerns, and we will make every effort to keep you informed and involved as this project progresses. Some of those questions may be answered below, but we will have much more information to share in the future. Each correspondence related to this project will be on orange paper.

Please let us know what the best way to keep you informed is by returning the enclosed postcard—keeping in mind that at times, we will be able to mail notifications out, but at other times, we may need to reach you on shorter notice, so email or fax may be the most effective means.



Here are some answers to the questions we are most frequently asked:

What does this project entail?

This is a multi-faceted project, and the *conceptual* designs include wider sidewalks along State Street, bulbouts at the intersections for enhanced pedestrian crossing, a road “diet” on State Street that limits traffic to one lane each direction and a center turn lane, and more street trees and street furniture.

Will sidewalks be torn up?

Yes, primarily along State Street. We will make every effort to ensure that effected businesses have ample notice and that the “down-time” will be as minimal as possible. The end result will be wider, more pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.

Will I be able to provide input regarding the design?

Much of the conceptual design work was done in 2009. However, there *will* be room for additional input. As we get nearer to the final design phase later this year, we will be planning community meetings and various other opportunities for your input. We will use the information you provide on the postcard to keep you informed.

Who's paying for this project?

Staff has been working diligently to obtain funding for the project. To date, the City has been awarded funding in the amount of \$1.3 million from the Mendocino Council of Governments and \$1 million from the CalTrans Highway Safety Improvement Program.

What area does this project cover?

The total project area spans State Street from Henry Street to Mill Street, Standley and Perkins Streets from School to Main; and Henry Street from School to State Streets.

Will there be any assistance available for businesses affected by the project?

The City of Ukiah is actively pursuing partnerships and funding to facilitate the implementation of this program. It is our goal to ensure that, not only are the impacts to your business minimized, but there are also significant efforts made to educate the surrounding community that your shops are open for business during construction. A committee of business owners and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and the Ukiah Main Street Program has already been created for this purpose.

What are the next steps?

Fill out and return the postcard. When we know more, we'll share it with you. In the next few months, we will be working to hire a consultant to begin the environmental review work. This will set the stage for the later design phase.

As this project moves forward, the City will be setting up an online site to host the most current information. We know you need as much advance notice as possible of this work, and we will work to get that to you.

We'll use your response on the enclosed postcard to contact you in the near future. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about the project, please call Shannon Riley at 463-5793.

Sincerely,



Jane Chambers,
City Manager