

(30)

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DESIGN COMMISSION ACTION

Subject: 2005 Downtown Improvement Projects

Meeting Date: May 11, 2005

Recommendation #1: That the Council considers the following actions for the proposed three streetscape projects as described below:

Project #1 Installation of four mast arm traffic signal poles at the intersection of Franklin and Columbia Streets and two mast arm signal poles at the intersection of East Franklin Street and Porthole Alley and crosswalks.

a) That the Council delays the installation of mast arm traffic signal poles at the proposed two intersections and that the Council requests the Staff to investigate alternate traffic signal pole designs for the two intersections with an emphasis on a design that respects the unique character of this most prominent area of downtown.

b) That the Council authorizes the Town Manager to proceed with the installation of the proposed crosswalk projects for both intersections.

Project #2 Streetscape improvements on the south side of the 100 and 200 blocks of West Franklin Street adjacent to University Square.

That the Council authorizes the Town Manager to proceed with the installation of this project with the following design modifications:

- a. That the curb shall be extended as proposed an additional 2 feet into the East Franklin Street right-of-way.
- b. That the additional 2 feet of streetscape area created by relocating the curb shall be used to enlarge the landscape/bench/streetscape amenity strip.
- c. That the public sidewalk shall be 8 feet wide.
- d. That the streetscape plan shall include a bus shelter for the existing bus stop.
- e. That the streetscape plan shall incorporate if possible, in collaboration with the management of University Square, opportunities for improved pedestrian access between the public sidewalk/streetscape and the University Square retail area.
- f. That the area between the existing wall, in front of the University Square parking lot, and the inner edge of the proposed streetscape is adequately seeded to discourage weeds and other plants.

Project #3 Installations of custom street and pedestrian lighting on the south side of the 500 and 600 blocks of West Franklin Street.

That the Council authorizes the Town Manager to proceed with the installation of Project #3.

Recommendation #2: That the Council also considers taking action on the following streetscape issues:

1. Installation of additional pedestrian street lighting at the W. Franklin St. Post Office.
2. Place greater emphasis, funding and planning on improving and cleaning up the public-private pedestrian alley network downtown.
3. Because the following projects are less likely to be disruptive of pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic, investigation of the use of private contractors (or Town employees) during non-summer months to proceed with the following proposed optional streetscape projects:
 - a. Sidewalk reconstruction on the north side of W. Franklin St from Crooks Corner to Chapel Hill Tire.
 - b. Sidewalk reconstruction on the south side of W. Franklin St from Kenan St to Parking Lot #3.
 - c. Sidewalk reconstruction on the south side of W. Franklin St from Parking Lot #3 to Roberson St.

Prepared by:

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