Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee

May 19, 2023
Process/Schedule
Project Overview

- Funded in 2016 through Smartscale
- Multimodal improvements including:
  - Wider sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping, ADA and pedestrian improvements, wayfinding, and signal upgrades.
  - Evaluate undergounding overhead utilities
- E. Market Street
  - From 7th Street to 9th Street
- 9th Street
  - From E. Market Street to E. High Street
- E. High Street
  - From 9th Street to 10th Street

Total Budget:
Smartscale - $7,375,954
Betterments - $4,052,195

Betterments
- Place overhead utilities underground
- Rivanna Distribution Watermain

https://smartportal.virginiahb2.org/#/public/applications/2017/hb2/view/F1-0000000187-R01
Process/Schedule

Project Planning, Design, Public Outreach, Approvals - January 2018 to October 2019

COVID Impact and Financial Impact/Restructuring – March 2020 to October 2022

Right of way Acquisition – October 2022 – December 2023 - WE ARE HERE

Construction Begins – Late Summer 2024; Construction Ends – Winter 2025/2026
Public Engagement Overview
**Visioning & Needs Assessment**

**Key Takeaways**
- Overall, pedestrian facilities and multimodal mobility is a priority.
- Desire to provide a safe and walkable street that enhances neighborhood connections.
- Utilize design features and proposed amenities to enhance the overall environment for all users.

**As of October 2019**
- 17,500+ individual data points
- 1,000+ touch points
- 500+ written comments

**Steering Committee Meeting #1**
- EastHighStreetscape.org Website
- Streetscape Summit
- MetroQuest Survey
- Steering Committee Meeting #2
- Open House
- Presentations to City Committees
- Approval by Planning Commission
- Conceptual Approval by City Council
- Coordination with Active Developments
- Prelim. Input from Board of Arch. Review
- Design Public Hearing Approval by City Council

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17,500+ individual data points
1,000+ touch points
500+ written comments

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Vision & Needs Assessment

Common Themes and Key Takeaways

• Key Words | safe, walkable/pedestrian-friendly, functional

• Priorities
  1. Pedestrian Facilities
  2. Landscaping
  3. Bicycle Facilities
  4. Traffic and Travel Speeds
  5. Lighting

• Challenges | traffic volumes, limited space/competing priorities, Lexington and E. High intersection

• Outcomes | conformance to Comprehensive Plan, City Council concept approval
Preliminary Design Development

Design Public Hearing – Key Themes & Takeaways

Key Takeaways

- Overall support of bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- Desire for planting pallete enhancements including larger canopy trees
- Interest in how planned Tarleton Oaks development works with streetscape
- Support for conversion of existing overhead utilities to underground
- Concerns expressed regarding traffic
- Challenges with competing priorities in limited space and need for compromise

46 attendees
30+ written comment forms or e-mails
Recommended Preliminary Design
E. Market Street/9th Street

SECTION A - MARKET ST BETWEEN 8TH ST. AND 7TH ST.

SECTION B - MARKET ST BETWEEN 8TH ST. AND 9TH ST.
Recommended Preliminary Design
9th Street NE/E. High Street

SECTION C - 9TH ST. BETWEEN MARKET ST. AND E. JEFFERSON ST.

SECTION D - EAST HIGH ST. BETWEEN 9 1/2 ST. AND CFA
Recommended Design Changes Based on Public Hearing Comments
Design Changes Summary

Design Change #1 & #2

Design Change #3
Design Change #1 & #2 - Public Hearing Feedback on Planting

Key Takeaways
- Encourage the use of native trees
- Consider pedestrian comfort and safety
- Desire for larger trees rather than understory

• Priorities
  1. Large trees for shade
  2. Native tree varieties

• Challenges
  1. Adequate soil volume available for large trees
  2. Overhead electric utilities (if not underground)
Design Change #1 & #2 - Revised Planting Palette

**Proposed Canopy Trees**
- Potential Species:
  - Sweet Gum
  - *L. styraciflua* ‘Rotundifolia’
  - Scarlet Oak
  - *Q. cocinea*
  - American Linden
  - *T. americana*
  - London Plane Tree
  - *P. x acerifolia* ‘Bloodgood’
  - Willow Oak
  - *Q. phellos* ‘Hightower’

**Proposed Understory Trees**
- Potential Species:
  - Flowering Dogwood
  - *C. florida*
  - Serviceberry (multi-stem)
  - *A. grandiflora*
  - Eastern Redbud
  - *C. canadensis*
  - American Hornbeam
  - *C. caroliniana*
  - Winter King Hawthorn
  - *C. viridis* ‘Winter King’

Note: Tree species selected are consistent with Charlottesville’s Master Tree List.
Design Change #3
E. High Street

1. Eliminate 2’ wide striped median from E. High intersection to CFA Institute Entrance.

2. Widen proposed bicycle lane from 5’ to 6’.