

**Meeting Notes****Monroe Street Reconstruction Business Roundtable****Date: March 29, 2017****Location: HotelRED****Total attendance: 27+**

Staff and alder in attendance: Alder Sara Eskrich; Christy Bachmann, Jim Wolfe and Phil Gaebler, Engineering; Ruth Rohlich and Mike Miller, Office of Business Resources.

**Questions and comments during the business survival strategy overview:**

- With this and the current side street reconstructions, businesses will be affected for 2+ years. If there is follow up construction planned for side streets in 2018, will you please let us know in advance?
  - Yes. There is currently construction planned for the southern half of Gregory in 2019. Other smaller residential reconstructions will pick up again after the Monroe Street Reconstruction.

**Questions and comments during the reconstruction project scope overview:**

- When will the construction take place during the day? Can they work on weekends?
  - Daily allowable start and end times for construction are 7 AM – 7 PM by city ordinance. Contractors are allowed to work on the weekends, but will typically try to avoid it. Sunday hours are 10 AM – 7 PM.
  - During construction there will be one lane of traffic moving inbound, toward Regent Street. The City will install signage to inform the general public that businesses are open during construction.
- How will we be notified of water shut offs? Restaurants cannot operate without running water.
  - Properties on Monroe served by the water main will likely experience two water shut-offs during construction that will likely last 4-5 hours. It is required that contractors provide at least 48 hours' notice, but they will work to give as much notice as possible. Weekly meetings with the contractors will be a good source of information for these types of announcements during the reconstruction. It may also be possible to pass a resolution to extend work hours so that the contractors could work with businesses to avoid a water shut off during certain times of the day.
- Could parking tickets on the side streets surrounding Monroe be reduced during the reconstruction to provide flexibility?
  - The same parking rules will remain in place for adjacent streets, but there is a chance the street sweeping regulations could be adjusted. Keep in mind, however, that street sweeping will be especially important to keep construction debris from reaching the lake.
- Will the side streets and cross streets be open?
  - There will be some utility work on the side streets. The contractors will ensure that if one intersection is closed, the two adjacent intersections will not be.
- Will the location of the one open lane change a lot during construction?
  - The open lane will move as little as possible and will be in two main locations during the reconstruction. The contractor will likely try to do one half of the street and then the other.
- When will construction begin in 2018?
  - The contractors will begin as soon as the weather breaks next year, so hopefully by mid-March. It will last through the end of October or early November.

- Can the City establish park & ride areas for a shuttle to move people around the area? It would be really helpful for employees. There is an idea to use the Associated Bank Parking lot as a stop for the shuttle.
  - Metro has received the proposal for a shuttle from the Merchants Association and will review it.
- There has been some discussion about using the parking on the Edgewood campus at night for Monroe Street businesses. Has anyone contacted them about this?
  - Edgewood Campus School Principal: Edgewood is happy to work with businesses on parking. Most all of our parking is used during the school year, but the high school ends earlier than most and parking needs are much lower during the summer. Edgewood does not currently have any plans to shuttle their own students, but will work with the City to best direct our traffic flow.
- At which end of the street will construction begin?
  - This project is so large that it will be bid as two separate contracts, so there will be multiple starting locations.
- Is there a different plan for the traffic flow on the street for the 4-6 UW football home games scheduled during the reconstruction?
  - We are looking into that. Later in the project it may be possible to have two paved lanes open.

**Questions and comments during the presentation of planned and potential business district improvements:**

- What will the lighting be like?
  - The decorative pedestrian-scaled light posts already installed along the 1700-1900 blocks are what will be added to the other business districts during the reconstruction.
- Please add outlets to the light posts so that we can use them for holiday lights and other purposes.
- Can we switch to free parking like in the Willy Street business district?
  - The parking utility is unlikely to remove meters because it gets a lot of revenue from parking meters installed in high demand areas like Monroe. Parking meters also increase turnover, which is good for businesses, so that people who are not shopping cannot tie up spots all day.
- Will the sidewalks remain concrete? Could they be brick or another material?
  - This project aims to keep as much of the existing sidewalk intact as possible. Additionally, sidewalks must be ADA compliant and require minimal maintenance after installation. Pavers and other decorative treatments require a higher level of upkeep than the city can commit to.
- Is there talk of a parking ramp being installed?
  - Not at this time.
- Are there plans to extend the curbs into the parking lane in certain locations, similar to what was done on East Johnson Street?
  - No, the street width will remain the same and the peak flow/parking lane must remain flexible.