

## SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Sixth Street Sidewalk Improvements – Sibley to Wacouta**

Report Prepared 7-5-2012  
Public Hearing 9-19-2012

#### **PROJECT**

This project is to improve the sidewalk on the north side of **East Sixth Street between Sibley Street and Wacouta Street**, by reconstructing and widening the sidewalk and abandoning existing areaways and completing all other related work to complete said improvement.

The abutting property owners have requested the sidewalk be widened to allow for operation of seasonal sidewalk café's in this area.

#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

The existing sidewalk is 10' wide and in poor condition and not wide enough for the size of sidewalk café desired by the property owners.

From north to south, the existing cross section of 6<sup>th</sup> between Sibley to Wacouta consists of a 10' sidewalk, a 10' wide Bus Lane (on east end) and Parking Lane (on west end), two 10' wide traffic lanes, a 10' wide parking lane, and 10' wide sidewalk in a 60' wide right of way. When cars are parked on the west end, the bus has to merge into adjoining traffic lane to avoid parked cars. 6<sup>th</sup> Street is one way westbound.

#### **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

It is proposed to improve the sidewalk on the north side of East Sixth Street between Sibley Street and Wacouta Street, by removing the existing 10' wide sidewalk, abandoning the areaways under the sidewalk as needed, construct an 18' wide concrete sidewalk, complete storm sewer and other related utility relocations, install 4 trees, relocate globe style street lights, complete traffic signal revisions, revise striping and signing to transition and shift traffic lanes as necessary through the widened sidewalk area, ban parking as needed and remove 22 parking meters and complete all other related work to complete said improvement.

Under this proposal, the sidewalk would be wide enough to accommodate a 10' wide sidewalk café area and a 6' wide accessible path for pedestrians.

#### **ALTERNATES**

To do nothing would be inconsistent with the property owners desire to widen sidewalk and operate a larger sidewalk café.

During community process for project, there was discussion of implementing a seasonal sidewalk widening to allow for a larger sidewalk café area in Spring, Summer and Fall but then be removed during Winter Snow Season. Property Owners were not interested in this option.

## **POSITIVE BENEFITS**

General improvement of the public right-of-way will enhance and add quality to the neighborhood. The newly rebuilt sidewalk will improve walkability of the area and space available for seasonal sidewalk café's. Providing full Bus/Bike Lane will improve transit, traffic and bicycling in this block.

## **ADVERSE EFFECTS**

In order to maintain 2 westbound traffic lanes to adequately serve traffic, a westbound combined Bus /Bike Lane, and provide for an 18' wide sidewalk, it will be necessary to remove parking and parking meters as follows:

### North Side Sixth – Sibley to Wacouta

6 Parking Meters

Estimated Yearly Revenue Lost - \$8,000

### South Side Sixth – 100' west of Sibley to 100' east of Wacouta

16 Parking Meters and 1 signed Handicapped Parking Space

Estimated Yearly Revenue Lost - \$17,500

Note that under the Central Corridor Bike Walk Plan adopted by City Council, it is recommended that the Bus Lanes on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> be converted to a shared Bus and Bike Lane which would require removal of the 6 parking meters on the north side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Sibley and Wacouta.

Normal problems associated with construction such as noise, dust, reduced access to businesses, and general disruption will be present.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

The CapitolRiver Council set up a task force in 2010 and received community input on the proposal. The full CapitolRiver Council adopted following resolution:

*“CapitolRiver Council approves the plans for a permanent sidewalk extension and cafe on 6th Street between Sibley and Wacouta, and urges building owners to further consider a seasonal decking option by meeting with John Mannillo.”*

## **TIME SCHEDULE**

The project will be completed in the fall of 2012. Exact timing and schedule of project will be coordinated to minimize disruption to adjacent property owners and the community.

**COST ESTIMATE**

Construction	\$	216,000
Engineering	\$	54,000
	\$	
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>270,000</b>

**ESTIMATED FINANCING**

Assessments	\$	270,000
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>270,000</b>

The above costs do not include areaway abandonment which will be directly assessed to affected property owner.

The assessment rate for this project is \$900 per assessable foot. It is proposed to assess 100% of cost to benefitting property owners.

**SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information, contact the Project Engineer, Paul St. Martin, at 266-6118.

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

The Department of Public Works feels that this is a worthwhile project, and the Engineering Recommendation is for approval of the project and financing.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul St. Martin  
Public Works