

AGENDA
CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
August 9, 2016 6:00 pm

City Council Meetings are open to the public. Requests for accommodations from persons with disabilities must be made to the City Manager's Office 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

- 1. WORKSESSION**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. City Council Updates/Council Comments**
- 4. Agenda Review**
- 5. WORK SESSION: 3rd Street Corridor Conceptual Planning**
(A portion of this meeting will be downtown for an onsite view of 3rd Street.)
[Summerville, Council]

Documents:

- [1.Cover Sheet.pdf](#)
- [2.Project Scope.pdf](#)

CITY OF LARAMIE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING August 9, 2016



Agenda Item: Presentation

Title: Third Street Workshop and Tour with New Mobility West

Recommended Council MOTION:

Work session; no action can be taken.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

This presentation and tour will give the City Council a hands on experience of potential opportunities and constraints relative to 3rd Street.

Background:

Laramie Main Street Alliance has partnered with New Mobility West, Community Builders, Inc., and Charlier Associates to facilitate a comprehensive overview of Third Street through downtown Laramie. The goal is to spark discussions and ideas that will make the Third Street corridor more inviting, attractive and safe for all users.

Community design charrettes are open to the public Monday, August 8 from 5 to 7 pm and Wednesday, August 10 from 5 to 7 pm, both at the historic train depot at 1st and Kearney. Additional focus groups meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 9th from 1 to 5 pm.

The purpose of this works session is to provide the City Council background on this process and get them involved. At 7:00 p.m. on August 9 (at the conclusion of the Work Session) representatives of the Main Street Alliance, WYDOT, New Mobility West, Community Builders, Inc., and Charlier Associates will guide the City Council, Planning Commission and interested members of the public on a walking tour of Third Street.

Please see the attached project scope for additional details. For more information, visit www.laramiemainstreet.org or call 307-760-3355.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

n/a

Responsible Staff:

Charles Bloom, AICP, Principal Planner
721-5232

Future dates are subject to change

Work Session	August 9, 2016
Advertised	
Public Hearing Held	
Pub. Hearing Advertised	
Introduction/1 st Reading	
2 nd Reading	
3 rd Reading	

Attachments:

1. Project Scope



Background. US Highway 287 is a major north-south corridor through Laramie, and becomes Third Street for roughly 4.5 miles through town. Third Street cuts through gateway areas, commercial zones, and 8 blocks of Laramie’s National Register-listed historic downtown. Several major projects are planned for this corridor over the next 5-7 years including resurfacing the length of Third Street, ADA improvements, signal improvements, and a significant change in traffic patterns with the planned demolition of an existing bridge, which serves as a major entrance to the corridor approximately five blocks to the north. However, these improvements do not fully address enhancing walkability and bike connections along Third Street, or other potential improvements for the corridor, including redirecting heavy commercial truck traffic, slowing motorists through the historic downtown core, or enhancing the streetscape. The corridor, as it is, hinders business development and detracts from an otherwise vibrant community that relies heavily on tourism and attracting new students to the university. Stakeholders realize that repaving and restriping alone are not enough to achieve the safety, economic and design goals for the downtown portion of Third Street. The Laramie Third Street Community Mobility Team, including representatives from the Laramie Main Street Alliance, the City of Laramie, the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, and Laramie’s Beautification and Traffic Commissions, has requested assistance through New Mobility West to bring stakeholders together to explore design solutions for Third Street that may be incorporated into the proposed repaving project that is scheduled for 2020.

Project Overview. Project partners envision the downtown portion of Third Street, from Sheridan to Lewis Street, as becoming a walkable, vibrant corridor that supports the downtown. Second Street, which is the heart of Laramie’s downtown, is only a block away and boasts low commercial vacancy rates, demonstrating a strong opportunity for Third Street to support further downtown business growth. WYDOT has a proposed repaving project for the Third Street corridor scheduled for 2020. This presents an opportunity to both improve the streetscape to achieve the city’s economic development goals while meeting the safety and mobility requirements that WYDOT has for the corridor.

As the 2020 repaving project approaches, project partners want to bring together a variety of stakeholders to build consensus on a vision for Third Street that respects all entities’ needs and goals for the corridor. Project partners want to understand what could possibly be added to the repaving project to increase bike and pedestrian mobility and support downtown businesses, as well as understand how these elements could be funded.

Project Goals. Completion of three primary goals will determine project success:

1. Working directly with citizens, business owners, and project partners, cultivate a vision for the Third Street corridor between Sheridan and Lewis Streets that focuses on streetscape improvements that will foster downtown economic development and bike and pedestrian mobility.
2. Deliver recommendations for implementation, including potential funding sources, for how added improvements can realistically be achieved.
3. Assist project partners in building and sustaining a community enthusiasm for transformation along Third Street with easily achievable implementation recommendations.



Project Objectives. Core objectives associated with the project include:

- *Establish a community-driven vision for the downtown portion of Third Street.* Landowners and businesses abutting the downtown portion of Third Street have a direct stake in the outcome of this project and will need to be engaged throughout. The Laramie Main Street Alliance serves the interests of the area and will be a key partner. Pre-site visit engagement tactics to engage and energize area residents and business owners should be conducted. Site visit public engagement strategies like focus groups, questionnaires, visual preference surveys, mini-charrettes and neighborhood meetings should all be considered.
- *Deliver recommendations for streetscape improvements.* Analyze WYDOT's priorities for Third Street, including the existing and projected traffic flow needs, to understand how bike and pedestrian mobility improvements can realistically be incorporated. Work collaboratively with both local entities and WYDOT to prepare design recommendations that can improve the streetscape both for mobility and economic development while meeting WYDOT's requirements.
- *Assess funding opportunities and viability of implementation.* Understanding today's funding landscape is crucial to achieving the improvements that project partners hope to see along Third Street. Community enthusiasm will be critical to sustaining drive for improvements, thus project partners would like recommendations for both near-term and long-term strategies for implementation.

Key Project Considerations. In achieving project goals and meeting the project objectives described above, several factors should also be taken into consideration:

- *WYDOT Priorities.* Project partners stress the importance of working collaboratively with WYDOT to improve downtown Third Street. All recommendations should keep WYDOT's goals in focus and articulate how added streetscape improvements would or would not affect their goals.
- *Connectivity.* Third Street as it exists creates a barrier between the University and residential areas to the east and the historic downtown core to the west. Improvements that increase safe and comfortable connections for all modes across Third Street should be taken into account during the visioning process.
- *Context.* Project partners hope to see the Third Street streetscape support the expansion of their downtown core. They envision a vibrant corridor that achieves comfortable mobility for all modes of travel, encourages window shopping, lingering on the street, and attracts through-traffic to stop and visit Laramie businesses.
- *Transition Zones.* While the focus of this project is on Third Street between Lewis and Sheridan Streets, project partners would like basic recommendations for the how the transition zones along Third Street could be improved to slow traffic down as it approaches the downtown core.

Deliverables. Approximately three pre-site visit planning conference calls with Laramie partners and the New Mobility West team, a 2–3 day on-site visit, collaborative vision for the downtown portion of the Third Street corridor, stakeholder engagement, recommendations shown visually whenever possible, and a report detailing all findings.



Timeline and Benchmarks. Detailed project scoping and communication between the selected consultant(s) and the community will occur via conference calls during June 2016. This period will clearly establish roles, details of the forthcoming work and set project expectations, all of which will be solidified through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Laramie partners and the New Mobility West project team. The public visioning process will occur between all parties and stakeholders over two to three days on-site in Laramie, likely in July or August 2016. The final project report will be issued in October 2016.