PRE-CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION SESSION: DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

Department of Planning + Development
June 17, 2021

para español
Agenda

• Which streets are planned to see changes this summer?
• How do those streets fit into the overall Urban Trail Network?
• What changes are planned for these streets?
• Questions and Answers
Virtual Meeting Procedure

• Type questions or comments in Q&A at any time *(press Q&A button at bottom of your screen)*
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Interpretation

Para español:
Downtown Road Safety Improvements

- **Empire Street** (Fountain to Weybosset)
- **Chestnut Street** (Weybosset to Clifford)
- **South Water Street** (Memorial to Wickenden)
- **Richmond Street** (one block from Clifford to Elbow)
Why these streets?

- City considered factors such as connectivity, access, and equity to determine which streets should move forward in 2021:
  - **Connectivity:** Does the street connect to an existing or funded Urban Trail segment?
  - **Access:** Does the street provide access to important destinations such as schools, jobs, parks, libraries, cultural institutions, local businesses
  - **Equity:** we must invest in our neighborhoods equitably to overcome past injustices; our government has harmed communities of color with past unhealthy transportation decisions
Network Map from Great Streets Plan

Plan released January 2020 details citywide network of quiet neighborhood streets & separated bike lanes. 

*Orange = new route, Blue & Green = existing route*
Downtown Great Streets map

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2021 Great Streets Projects

Downtown Safety Improvements planned for Summer-Fall 2021, circled in red above.
Downtown Road Safety Improvements

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- **Chestnut Street** (Weybosset to Clifford)
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Community Engagement

- Jun 24, 2020 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of South Water St
- Jun 23, 2020 – Ward 1 virtual neighborhood meeting on South Water St
- Feb 25, 2020 – Public meeting about Empire, Chestnut, and Richmond at 444 Westminster St
- Jan 15, 2020 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of South Water St
- Oct 16, 2019 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of Empire/Chestnut & Richmond
- Mar 18, 2019 – Great Streets Plan workshop at 444 Westminster St
- Aug 15, 2018 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of Empire/Chestnut & Richmond

Many individual meetings with various stakeholders
Community Feedback

• Avoid conflicting with JWU shuttle routes
  – No JWU shuttle routes are impacted
• Construction zone at Parcel 28 taking up some roadway space
  – Adjusted dimensions of improvements to fit
• Speeding & noise on South Water St
  – Integrated speed lumps into plan
• Swap Empire loading zone to end near Washington
  – Loading zone retained and moved to this location
Timeline

• **Mid to late July:** Construction begins

• **September 30:** Construction complete
New style of separation

Other cities have recommended modular hard plastic curbing units such as Tuff Curb XLP, pictured above, which are designed to withstand impacts that occur regularly in the roadway.
South Water Street current conditions
South Water Street new configuration
Two-way separated urban trail on the river side of the street
Empire St & Chestnut St

Adding a two-way separated urban trail on southbound side

Proposed Empire Street layout (Fountain to Broad):
One car lane each direction; keep on-street parking on both sides of the street; urban trail on southwest side

Proposed Chestnut Street layout (Broad to Clifford):
One car lane each direction; no on-street parking; urban trail on southwest side (between Weybosset and Pine, the street will remain one-way for cars as it is today)
14 parking spaces added

- **Claverick**: 17 new
- **Friendship**: 37 new
- **Empire**: 6 new by AS220
- **Chestnut**: removing 32
- **Richmond**: removing 7
- **Empire**: removing 7 by PPL

Black: no change
Green: adding spaces (current/planned)
Red: removing spaces (current/planned)
Richmond St
Half-block connection from Clifford Street to West Side Park via Elbow Street alongside Point225
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For more information

- www.providenceri.gov/planning/great-streets/
  - Read the Great Streets Master Plan
  - View this presentation again

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THANK YOU

City of Providence