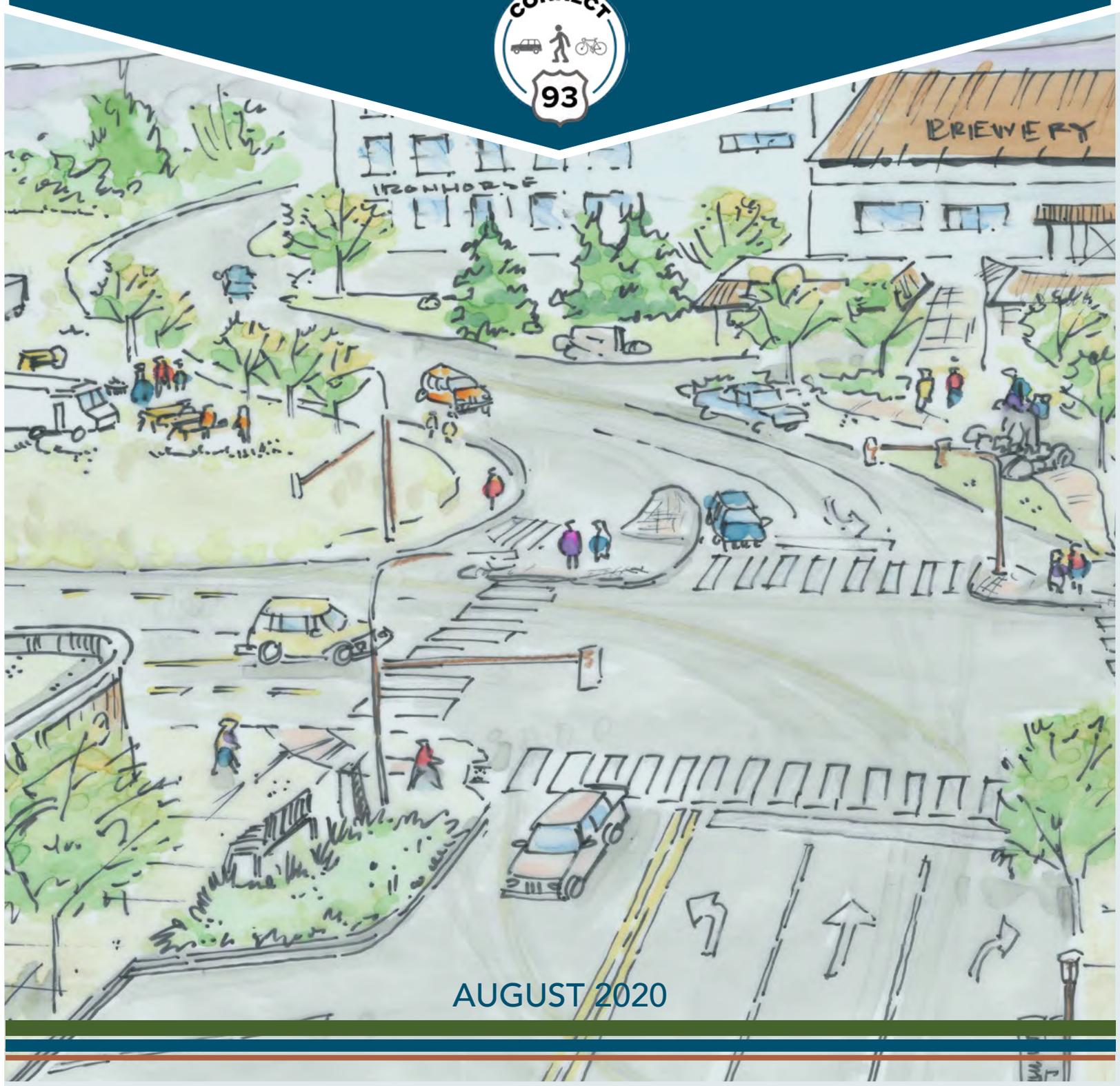


CONNECT 93

ACTION PLAN

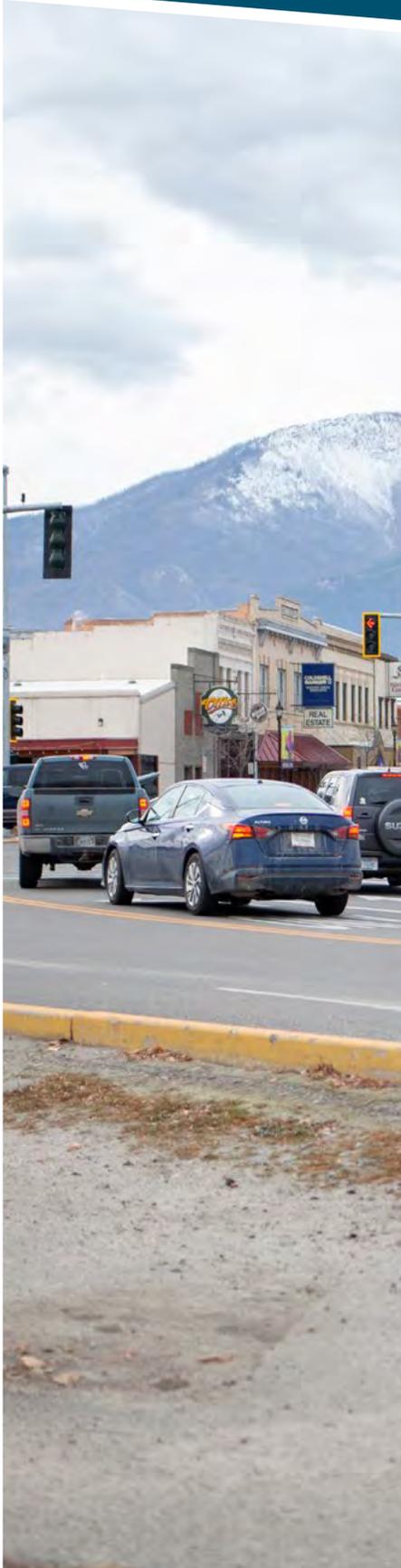


HAMILTON, MT



AUGUST 2020

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ABOUT COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Community Builders (CB) is a non-profit dedicated to helping local leaders create strong and prosperous communities in the American West. CB provides information, analysis, assistance and trainings to support the many people and organizations working to build better places by aligning their community's planning and economic goals.

The goal of the Community Builders' assistance program is to provide communities with the tools and resources to spark meaningful on-the-ground progress, while building local capacity and creating success stories that inspire and inform other places. Information about Community Builders' technical assistance program can be found at: www.communitybuilders.org

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the product of a collaborative effort between the City of Hamilton, MT, Community Builders, the Downtown Hamilton Association, Alta Planning + Design and the community.

This document is meant to be a guide to the City of Hamilton on how to achieve the community's goals for the area around Highway 93, Main Street and Marcus Street. Included in the report are strategies and recommended actions. Some of the actions identified in this report will necessitate further study and collaboration among local partners.



ABOUT THE CONNECT 93 PROJECT



The area around Hwy 93 and Main Street is the gateway to downtown. This is the heart of the Hamilton community- yet it is not welcoming and is difficult to navigate. The Connect 93 project explores different ways of balancing vehicle, pedestrian and bike mobility to make this intersection safer and connect local businesses and improve the sense of place around this important gateway within Hamilton.

In the Summer of 2019, The City of Hamilton partnered with Community Builders to help define this project, Connect 93, to bring together the community around shared vision for the area around Hwy.93 and Main St. to develop a plan of action for improving mobility and sense of place.

SEPT-DEC 2019



How do we bring people together around the type of change they want to see?

JAN-APR 2019



What are some ideas to improve mobility and the sense of place?

MAY-AUG 2019



What are the priorities, partners, and funding sources to move towards action?

The City has worked alongside Community Builders and the community to align mutual goals for the future of Hwy 93 and Main Street. Establishing a shared vision for the project led to specific ideas to achieve the community vision and action plan to getting things done. This project is intended as a first step to working with partners and the community on this key intersection. Successful outcomes in this project can be replicated at other key intersections along Hwy. 93 such as Fairgrounds Road.



A COMMUNITY DRIVEN PROCESS

A strong community process is important to unite local leaders and the community on working together to explore achievable strategies for improving mobility. The City and Community Builders developed a robust and fun public engagement process that put the community in the driver's seat for envisioning the future of Hwy. 93 and Main.



COMMUNITY VISION

A high priority was placed on working with the community to identify their hopes for improvements to Hwy 93. Between Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 we gathered feedback from the Hamilton community through online surveys, a community video, comment boxes, stakeholder meetings and two public open houses. A design worksession in February of 2020 brought together a team of experts with the community to develop specific ideas around how to address issues of safety and sense of place at the Hwy. 93 intersection. These ideas were shared with the community through online surveys, poster presentations, on social media and the website. Questions were collected and answered at two live Question and Answer sessions with City Staff.

Additional information about the public process can be found in Appendix A- Community Engagement Summary. Additional information about the Design Concepts can be found in Appendix B- Design Workshop Summary and Appendix C- Presentation Posters.

IN THIS DOCUMENT

This document highlights the final design recommendations and specific actions for the City of Hamilton and project partners to advance these ideas.



BACKGROUND

ISSUES

After listening to the community and walking around the 93 intersection as a team, it became clear that safety- of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers- is the key issue. Below is a list of primary safety concerns:

- There is a lot of confusion. Users are making a lot of differing movements and it is difficult to be aware of everything that is happening.
- There is limited visibility to left turning cars at the Safeway entrance onto Marcus. These left turning cars cross multiple lanes/turn lanes of traffic.
- The Brewery is located very close to Marcus St. creating a blind corner.
- Sidewalks don't exist along the length of Marcus St. yet the dirt paths suggest many people walk this area.
- Crossing distances are long, signal timing is too short. Due to the geometry it is hard for turning vehicles to see pedestrians in the crosswalk until a turn has been initiated.
- The speed limit is 25, but vehicles travel much faster resulting in difficulty crossing traffic for both pedestrians and turning vehicles.
- Lack of maintenance on vacant lots and makes this area feel unwelcoming.
- Large swaths of pavement and undefined pathways create confusion.
- Limited access to Safeway loading dock blocks traffic on Hwy. 93.

COMMUNITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Three primary goals were identified from the input gathered, These goals guided the design process how to address issues at Hwy 93. These goals and objectives are important as they provide the framework for action and guide long-term decision making at this intersection for Hamilton City leaders.



SAFE

GOAL 1: INCREASE SENSE OF SAFETY AND EASE OF ACCESS FOR ALL USERS.

- 1 Add Sidewalks & Crosswalks
- 2 Increase Pedestrian Crossing Signal Times
- 3 Decrease Pedestrian Crossing Distances
- 4 Bike Lanes and Alternative Routes
- 5 Traffic Calming



VISIBLE

GOAL 2: INCREASE VISIBILITY AND MINIMIZE POINTS OF CONFLICTS.

- 6 Improve Safeway and Brewery Access
- 7 Organize Turn Movements
- 8 Safe/designated space for pedestrians and bicycles
- 9 Look beyond intersection to address conflicts



WELCOMING

GOAL 3: EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A MORE WELCOMING INTERSECTION.

- 10 Connect Main Street and Marcus Street
- 11 Add Trees and Landscaping
- 12 Locations for Art and Signage
- 13 Activate the Street

STRATEGIES TO CONNECT 93



PROJECT FRAMEWORK

This project has focused on exploring ways to resolve the issues identified by the community through a comprehensive look at roadway design. While specific improvements at the 93 intersection will be needed, this area is also affected by vehicular movement beyond the intersection itself. Major points of conflict are at the Safeway intersection and the blind corner at the brewery. Addressing issues at these locations could resolve some of the conflicts at the 93 intersection. In addition, looking at other points of connection such as the extension of Bedford street could help redirect traffic out of areas of conflict and make the area safer.

By first resolving safety issues at the 93 intersection, opportunities are presented for how to better define spaces for pedestrians and bikes as well as make the area more welcoming. This includes activating the streetscape to make it more enjoyable to walk or bike. Often, these types of public investments will encourage future private investment in the area to extend the retail environment from Main Street along to emerging businesses along Marcus Street.

The following pages will explore strategies to improve safety and increase pedestrian and bike mobility through the following actions;

1. Highway 93 Intersection Improvements
2. Highway 93 Roadway
3. Safeway Entrance Realignment and Plaza
4. Marcus Street Activation
5. Marcus Street Roadway
6. Bedford Street Extension

1. Highway 93 Intersection

77%

OF PEOPLE SUPPORT THIS OPTION



DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

To increase safety and minimize environmental distractions for people, bikes and cars includes shortening crossing distances, increasing visibility and defining safe locations for cars, bikes and people.

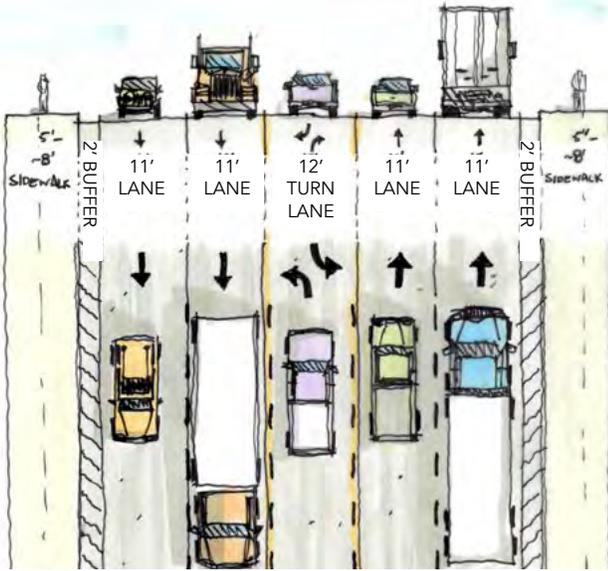
1. Incorporate pedestrian refuge islands or Bump outs/ curb extension (with or without free right turn) at Hwy. 93 and Marcus.
2. Incorporate a bump out/ curb extension at north side of Main and Hwy. 93.
3. Explore options for removing angled parking and/or a bump out/ curb extension at north side of Main and Hwy. 93.
4. Paint crosswalks and stop bars.
5. Add landscape, signage and wayfinding kiosks along Main Street.
6. Address 2 -3 parking spaces on south side of Main Street.

ACTION STEPS	LEAD	RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
Coordinate with MDT on design and engineering of pedestrian refuges and bump outs Main St, Marcus and Hwy. 93.	City to coordinate with MDT	Urban Routes Funding with Marcus Street Improvements	Fall/Winter 2020
Remove 2 -3 Parking Spaces on south side of Main. Alternative: Explore removing right Turn from Main to 93, build a bump out and increase parking spaces.	City to initiate discussion with Downtown Businesses (HDA)		2021
Coordinate with MDT on a maintenance agreement for striped high-visibility crosswalk and stop bars.	City to coordinate with MDT	Explore School Routes for Need and Funding	Fall/Winter 2020
Coordinate with signage plans to incorporate gateway and wayfinding signage.	Explore School Routes for Need and Funding		Ongoing with future improvements



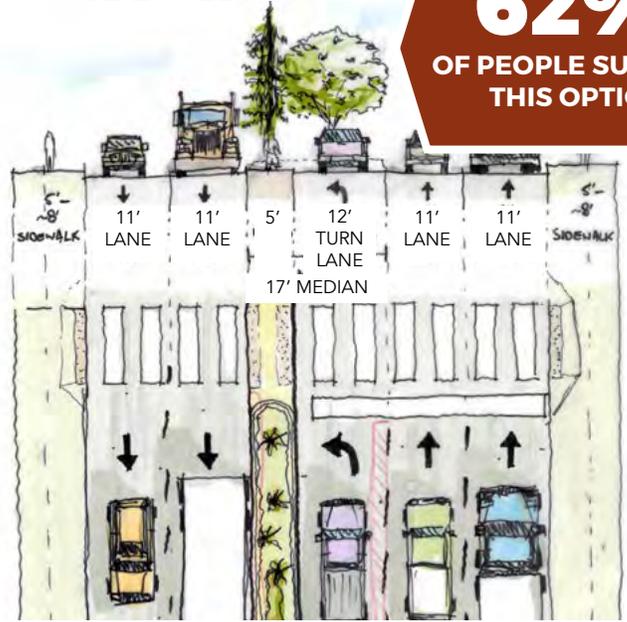
2. Highway 93 Roadway

PHASE 1: RE-STRIPING



- Maintains the existing curb and gutter.
- Re-striping to reduce lane widths and the width of the center turn lane.

PHASE 2: MEDIANS



62%
OF PEOPLE SUPPORT
THIS OPTION

- Reduce lane widths and the width of the center turn lane.
- 17' landscape median between Bedford St. and Pinckney St. and 6' pedestrian refuge at the intersections.

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Traffic calming would provide many benefits to the corridor, including an opportunity for landscaping and beautification, slowing traffic by and better defining turning areas to businesses.

1. (Short-term) Re-stripe the roadway to narrow lanes and provide a pedestrian buffer.
2. (Long-term) Add landscape medians with regionally sustainable plant materials, art, lighting and signage (as appropriate)
3. (Mid-term) Work with local property owners (such as the bank and Safeway) to bring wall murals of Hamilton along the 93 corridor.

ACTION STEPS	LEAD	RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
Phase 1 (Short-term): Coordinate with MDT to re-stripe roadway paint to narrow lanes and incorporate buffers.	City to coordinate with MDT	Future MDT projects	Next chip seal or as future MDT funding allows
Work with property owners to understand ingress/egress concerns. Establish a letter of agreement.	City/ HDA to coordinate with local business owners	Develop form letter or tracking for support	Ongoing Support and Buy-in
Phase 2 (Long-term): Coordinate with MDT and engineering on detailed engineering and landscape designs for central medians and limited left turn movements.	City to coordinate with MDT	Preliminary design and engineering with Urban Routes improvements	Next overlay or as future MDT funding allows
Coordinate a maintenance agreement on for medians with MDT.		Fund construction with future MDT projects	
Explore conversations with business owners on wall murals.	Identify an Arts Committee to lead		Early 2021

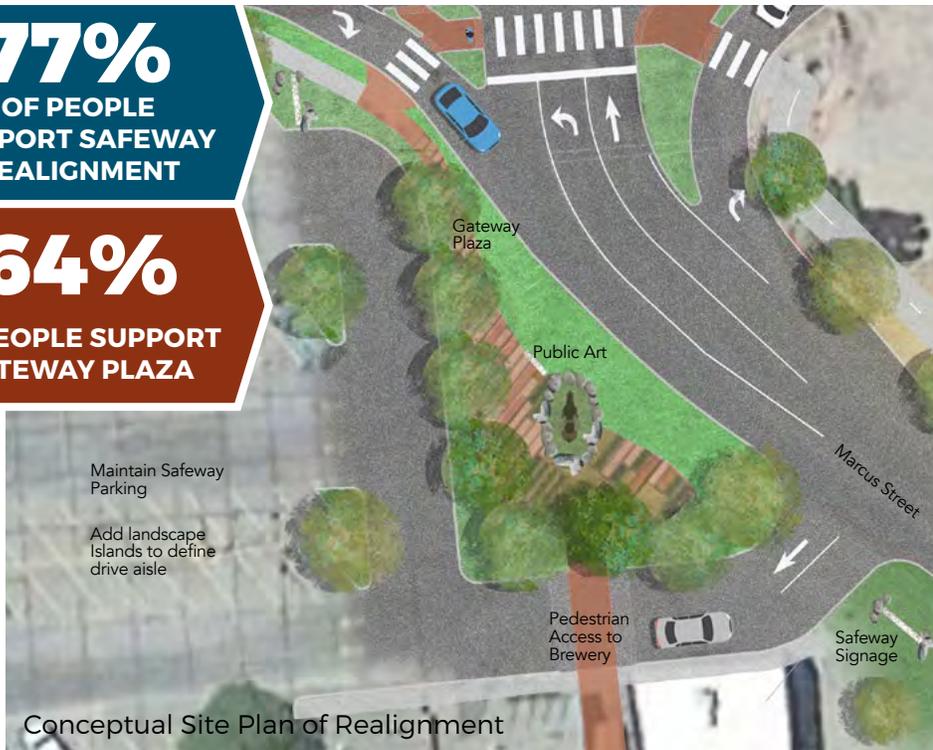
3. Safeway Entrance Realignment and Gateway Plaza

77%

OF PEOPLE SUPPORT SAFEWAY REALIGNMENT

64%

OF PEOPLE SUPPORT GATEWAY PLAZA



DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Key to resolving conflicts at the Hwy.93 and Main intersection is relocating the access point at Safeway and in addressing safety issues the space adjacent to the corner could be re-purposed to serve as a welcome plaza and provide a safe place for people to walk.

1. Relocate Safeway Entrance in further from intersection.
2. Build a Gateway Plaza with sidewalks, local art, signage and seating.
3. Add landscape islands in Safeway lot and adjacent to Hwy. 93.
4. Address drainage issues in parking lot, adjacent to fly shop and Marcus Street through design improvements.

Permit with

ACTION STEPS	LEAD	RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
Coordinate with Safeway and MRL on lease agreement for entrance property.	City to coordinate with Safeway and MRL	Letters of support from local businesses/ community/MDT	Fall 2020
Coordinate with Safeway, Chamber, Fly Shop and MDT on preferred designs for relocating entrance and design drawings for gateway plaza.	City to coordinate with stakeholders and bring to RFP for final design.	Urban Routes Funding with Marcus Street Improvements for curb and gutter	2021 for Curb and Gutter 2022 for Plaza
Work with local artists to bring sculptural art.	City/ HDA to coordinate	Existing sculpture donated to City	Upon Plaza Completion
Coordinate with signage plans to incorporate gateway and wayfinding signage.	City to coordinate with 2020 Signage Plan		Ongoing with future improvements



4. Marcus Street Property Activation

78%

OF PEOPLE SUPPORT STREET ACTIVATION



Conceptual Site Plan of Food Truck Plaza

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Low cost activation strategies are an opportunity to revitalize the vacant lots adjacent to Hwy. 93 to make this area feel more welcoming and also to extend the economic role of Main Street. Food trucks are a great way to activate these type of sites often serve as a 'restaurant incubator' by allowing a location for emerging restaurants to get a low cost start before moving to a brick and mortar locations.

1. Build a temporary use pilot site on MRL property to include food trucks, seating, planters, shade, overhead lighting, and activities such as lawn games or a fire pit.
2. Keep open lines of communication with adjacent property owners for opportunities for additional improvements.



Conceptual Illustration of Food Truck Plaza

ACTION STEPS	LEAD	RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
Work with MRL on property ownership/lease of vacant land.	City to coordinate with Bank/MRL	Coordinate with bank/MRL on lease agreement	Winter 2020
Work with local community to build an 'incremental' space to provide low cost seating, shade, food trucks and other activities.	City to lead effort with Bike-Walk Bitterroot, HDA, BBP Team	City to expedite permitting and food truck standards. Explore Grants	Initiate Winter 2020 Build Spring 2021
Encourage long-term redevelopment to permanently activate sites.	City/HDA to support ongoing conversations		Ongoing

5. Marcus Street Roadway

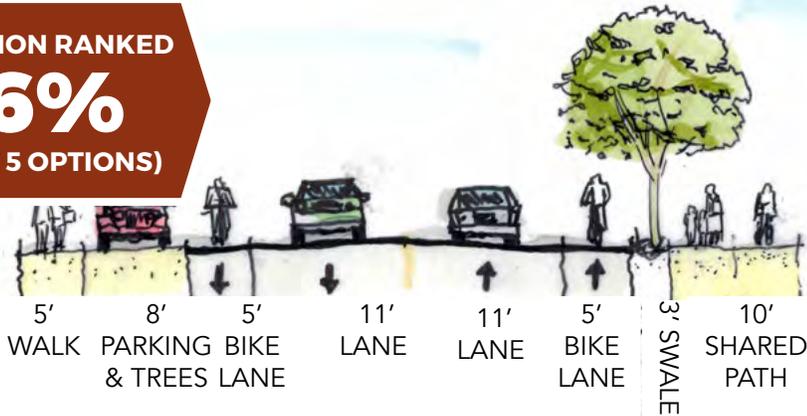
88%

OF PEOPLE SUPPORT
SIDEWALK & BIKE LANES

THIS OPTION RANKED

76%

(OUT OF 5 OPTIONS)



Conceptual Section (Above) & Plan (Below)



- The road is narrowed from 12' lanes to 11' lanes to slow traffic.
- Reallocate the shoulder to a 10' shared use trail on the north side of Marcus with a 3' vegetated swale for drainage.
- 5' sidewalk on the south side of Marcus with 8' parallel parking alternating with landscape buffers.

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Marcus Street should incorporate sidewalks and bike lanes, or shared use paths to allow for safe travel to Daly Ave.

1. Narrow existing configuration to 11' drive lanes. Maintain 5' bike lanes.
2. Incorporate a 10' shared use path along the north side of Marcus. Buffer from street with a 3' bioswale for drainage.
3. Add 8' parallel parking with an adjacent 5' sidewalks and intermittent landscape bump outs on south side of Marcus.
4. Explore drainage alternatives along Marcus including gravel parking areas, rain gardens or curb and gutter. Low impact stormwater concepts should be explored in preliminary design.

ACTION STEPS	LEAD	RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
Coordinate with MDT on preferred lane configuration along Marcus.	City to coordinate with MDT	Urban Routes Funding with Marcus Street Improvements	Fall/Winter 2020
Work with property owners to maintain existing ingress/egress points and obtain support for proposed changes within the ROW.	City to coordinate with property owners	MDT letters of support	Ongoing

6. Bedford Street Extension

68%

OF PEOPLE SUPPORT EXTENSION, PARKING, AND ACCESS



Preliminary Concept

*City has surveyed this area and submitted initial drawings to MRL to begin the process.

DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

A shared parking lot extension with a second point of access aligning with Bedford Street would increase parking and alleviate issues from turning movements onto Marcus. There is potential to also improve delivery access for Safeway and provide an alternative, safer route for bikes and provide a crossing over the railroad tracks.

1. Extend Bedford at existing intersection on Hwy. 93. Incorporate into plans sidewalks and bikes

paths. Explore moving RFB to Bedford.

2. Add shared parking for City and Businesses. Explore alternatives for angled vs. 90 degree, one-way access or two way access.

3. Explore the preferred configuration for right/in right out access onto Marcus.

4. Address pedestrian access from future Gateway Plaza across railroad tracks to businesses and parks.

5. Coordinate with Safeway and MRL for improved delivery access.



Right in/Right Out at Marcus



Pedestrian Crossing

ACTION STEPS	LEAD	RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
Coordinate with MRL on lease agreements and maintenance agreements for improvements.	City to coordinate with MDT/MRL	Explore City/private/grant funding sources	Survey Initiated by City Summer 2020
Develop preliminary/final design configurations Bedford Street extension, parking and right turn only movements at Marcus Street.	City to coordinate with MDT/MRL	City to explore preliminary designs Final design sub-consultant	Spring 2021 Fall 2021
Coordinate Brewery on right in right out preliminary concepts	City to coordinate		Summer 2021
Coordinate with Chamber and MRL to provide pedestrian access from Safeway to Park.	City to coordinate		Summer 2021