



Legislation Details (With Text)

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South Main Street Update (B)

Improvements to the South Main Street corridor have been the subject of discussions and planning exercises for a number of years in anticipation of the opening of Depot Park, the Cade Museum, the Power District, and other redevelopment opportunities in the area. During this period numerous milestones have been accomplished furthering the broad redevelopment goals for this area of Gainesville. Within the past several months significant changes to the area have occurred that directly impact the functional needs of the street. These include new commercial oriented businesses, the Depot Avenue streetscape and roundabout, siting of the Cade Museum, and the opening of Depot Park. With these recent improvements being fully realized, CRA Staff is prepared to advance the planning process forward so that the South Main Street corridor responds to its changing context and reflects its prominence as a gateway to Gainesville.

During the past several months CRA Staff has been meeting with individual stakeholders, businesses, and property owners located along South Main Street to solicit feedback in regards to their current and future relationship to the corridor. The information received compliments the work previously conducted related to surveying, traffic data gathering, façade grants, site inventory, community engagement, and user analysis. With the pending opening of Depot Park in August 2016 and the Cade Museum in the fall of 2017, CRA Staff is preparing to host a series of participatory community workshops in August/September to explore design alternatives that will support the project planning principles of: improving safety and connectivity, increasing parking opportunities, preparing the area as a destination with a unique identity, while addressing the accessibility, flow, and balance of the corridor.

Staff is working to advance the planning, design, and engineering process to ensure public safety improvements are in place as soon as possible without significant disruptions to business and commuter operations along the street.

Next steps include the public being invited to participate in a two-day community workshop event on Monday, August 29 & 30 at the newly renovated building that is now home to the GFAA studio and Liquid Creative at 1314 South Main Street to take part in the design alternative process. We will also

launch a web-based community design workshop site via engageGNV to facilitate additional stakeholder participation. Throughout the month of September numerous opportunities for the community to participate in the design process will be made available. CRA Staff will then consolidate feedback and recommendations received into a presentation to the Board during the fall of 2016. Once a cross-section for the street is approved by the Board, scoping of a schedule, construction documents, and construction can be developed. At today's CRA Board meeting, Staff will provide an update presentation on the approach, status, and scope of the South Main Street project.

None

CRA Executive Director to CRA Board: Hear presentation from staff