



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager  
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Director of Public Works  
DATE: June 9, 2020  
RE: Federal Street – Interim Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

### **Summary:**

The Department of Public Works will present an interim plan for bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Federal Street between Newman Avenue and East Wolfe Street.

### **Background:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic vehicle trips within the City have seen a drastic reduction. Based on current data those reductions are between 50% and 60%. However, with these reductions we have seen increases in both pedestrian and bicycle trips throughout the City. We do not have data to quantify the increases, but we have visually seen increases throughout the City. As a result, Public Works staff has been evaluating potential improvements that could be implemented to increase pedestrian and bicycle access to parts of the City. The Federal Street corridor was identified as a project location, that could be implemented quickly and at low cost. In addition, this project would capitalize on the soon to be completed Federal Street Shared Use Path project between Elizabeth Street and East Market Street.

This project is proposed to be an interim project, with the possibility of keeping the measures in place past the interim period. Public Works staff is currently anticipating the interim phase of this project would last through the summer and plans to review and decide on whether to extend prior to the end of the summer.

The project is comprised of few different approaches to provide improved pedestrian and bicycle access along the Federal Street corridor. Below is a list of those approaches broken down by block

#### **Newman Avenue to Water Street**

- Close this block to vehicle traffic and allow access for only pedestrians and bicycles. Appropriate temporary infrastructure will be placed to prevent vehicle traffic; however this infrastructure will be able to be quickly moved to allow for Public Safety access if needed.

#### **Water Street to East Market Street**

- Convert this section to one-way in the southbound direction (East Market to Water) and convert the travel lane to a shared use path. This conversion will be performed with

pavement markings, signage, and delineator posts. Access to all the entrances along this block will be maintained.

Elizabeth Street to East Wolfe Street

- This block is currently one-way in the northbound direction (Elizabeth to East Wolfe). A contra flow bike lane will be added to the existing pavement to allow bicycle trips in the southbound direction (East Wolfe to Elizabeth). This will be delineated with pavement markings, and signage.

The schedule for this project is to begin the implementation in June with all aspects of the design in place and ready for use by the end of June.

**Key Issues:**

Increase pedestrian and bicycle access during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Environmental Impact:**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact:**

N/A.

**Prior Actions:**

N/A

**Alternatives:**

N/A

**Community Engagement:**

- Public Work staff has met with City stakeholders (CMO, HPD, HFD, and HDR) and has incorporated their concerns into this project.
- Following the City Council meeting Staff will work with HDR on outreach throughout the downtown area.

**Recommendation:**

No action needed at this time.

**Attachments:**

1. Presentation

**Review:**