

# OAK STREET STORMWATER

## COMMUNITY DESIGN REVIEW MEETINGS

April 2022

### OVERVIEW

The following summarizes community input from two community design review meetings for the Oak Street Stormwater project. The meetings were held on Wednesday, April 20th, 2022, 12:00 -1:30PM and 6-7:30pm. In total 26 community members, 18 city staff, and six project team members attended the meetings.

Heather McDowell, City of Fort Collins Utilities Project Manager, provided a brief project history and overview followed by a detailed presentation of the current streetscape design from Angie Milewski, Landscape Architect at BHA Design. The design review included the proposed cross section, including bike lanes, and proposed changes to several key intersections including Howes, Washington, Shields, and Jackson, with possible changes to Meldrum, Loomis, and Whitcomb. Participants were invited to ask questions and provide their input on the proposed design.

### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK BY TOPIC AREA

The following chart summarizes the questions, concerns, and conversations that were raised during the two community meetings.

Theme	Questions/ Comments/ Concerns
Bumpouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally supportive of bumpouts as proposed, particularly as traffic calming measure, to reduce asphalt, and to provide safer pedestrian crossings.</li> <li>Questions about the function of bumpouts related to bikeways, parking, and the flow of water down the street during high rain events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Bumpouts will not interfere with bikeways, will have limited and isolated impacts to parking, and the streets are being engineered in a way to accommodate storm flows.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Questions about who will be responsible for installation and maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The city will work with homeowners to determine landscaping strategy and installations for bumpouts. The city will be responsible for installation, while residents will be responsible for maintaining landscaping after installation, consistent with existing residential street frontage responsibilities.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Concerns about people that will drive into the bumpouts the roads are not plowed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Valid concern as this does happen sometimes. Visual cues within the bumpouts such as stop signs or other vertical elements help protect them.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Theme	Questions/ Comments/ Concerns
Rain gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concerns regarding who is responsible for long-term maintenance and costs/budget to maintain rain gardens over time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The city will maintain rain gardens for function and aesthetics.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Concerns regarding how well LID strategies perform, especially over time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The city is learning and developing standard operating procedures to assure long-term effectiveness of LID stormwater installations.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Rain gardens should be aesthetically pleasing, free of weeds and with lots of greenery and flowers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The city will assure that the raingardens are aesthetically pleasing.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Effects on Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Questions around construction effect on residents' existing landscaping and irrigation systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The city will work to minimize impacts and put landscaping back in equal or better condition as it was prior to construction. The city and its team will work with residents to find solutions.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Will there be an effort to preserve existing trees? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Most if not all, existing trees will be preserved, though some trees will need to be pruned. Select ash trees are slated for removal due to emerald Ash borer, but that is unrelated to the construction of this project.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Shields Intersection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many expressed concerns about pedestrian and cyclist safety when crossing at Shields. People will continue to cross at Shields with or without a signal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Given the signalized crosswalks at Mountain, Akin, and Magnolia, combined with the volume of traffic on Shields, the city will not be placing a crossing signal at this intersection and there is too much traffic for an unsignalized crosswalk (i.e., striping).</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Floodplains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How will changes in flow dynamics and flooding be affected by this project? Will the existing floodplain be eliminated by this project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Flooding issues downtown will be improved but not eliminated through this project. The floodplain will change, however, and be remapped at the completion of the project.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some expressed concerns and others support for reverse diagonal parking in the downtown area as a measure to improve safety for cyclists, cars, and pedestrians. Others questioned the need for on-street parking at all. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The final orientation of the parking downtown has not yet been determined. On-street parking will be preserved to support parking needs for downtown businesses and events.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Concern was raised about adding diagonal parking on Jackson. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Installation of the bumpouts at the northwest corner of Jackson/Oak will allow for diagonal parking to be added in the future if needed but is not part of the current plan.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
City Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How does this project fit into the city's climate action priorities? Will the cost for streetscaping take budget away from climate action projects? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>This project contributes to community resilience through improving stormwater / flooding risk. The project costs are subject to review through the city's budgeting process and will be weighed against other priorities.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>