



For Immediate Release
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Project Makes “Our Next Steps” Easier to Maneuver

Harrisonburg, VA – The city’s downtown streetscape project “Our Next Steps” brings an ease to traffic and pedestrian maneuvering. The city completed Phase 2 of the Harrisonburg Streetscape Project earlier this month. A few tasks remain but drivers and pedestrians should notice improved amenities downtown.

This project consisted of streetscape improvements primarily along the west side of Main Street from Bruce Street to East Court Square. Improvements include sidewalk reconstruction, addition of curb ramps, and replacement of traffic signal poles, lighting, and the addition of a pedestrian signal system. Since asphalt plants shut down for the winter, Main Street will be repaved this Spring/Summer during the city’s annual paving program.

New pedestrian signals not only graphically represent the time to walk across a street but an audible signal tells you when it is safe, as well. The voice signal is only activated when a person pushes the button. “The sound of the voice should adjust to ambient background noise,” said Kimberly Cameron, Public Works Engineer. “As you can imagine, when downtown is louder during the daytime hours, that voice is going to be louder so a vision impaired person can hear it better.”

The new street lights ensure safety and security and are positioned on the east side of Main Street as well as the Newman Parking lot. These lights have a teardrop design and compliment the dark bronze traffic signals and new sidewalk pavers and are equipped with energy efficient bulbs.

Other amenities include:

- Illuminated street signs;
- Underground duct bank installed with three conduits;
- Overhead traffic signal poles better positioned for drivers; and
- Pedestrian signals at intersections where none existed previously.

The \$1,100,000 enhancement project was funded with local and state funds.

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Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

The Harrisonburg Public Works Department maintains more than 300 lane miles, 42.37 miles of public sidewalk, 250 miles of curb and gutter, and hundreds of acres of city right-of-way. The department strives to ensure a safe, clean, and clear passageway for all vehicular and pedestrian traffic. More information about street and sidewalk maintenance is available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/public-works.



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