



CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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City seeks community input for Gay Street Reconfiguration Project

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Harrisonburg Public Works is currently in the planning stages of an effort to create a safer and easier way to navigate a section of Gay Street in the Downtown area, and community input is needed.

The project, between Broad and Liberty streets, would reconfigure Gay Street lanes and add additional safety infrastructure. The department will host an open house Wednesday, April 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center Auditorium, 620 Simms Ave., where community members will view proposed project plans and have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

The current lane configuration of Gay Street in this area requires those driving or biking to change lanes at one or more locations in order to continue straight on the street. This project proposes revising the configuration to improve operations and safety for people driving, biking and walking. Changes include creation of turn lanes to safely accommodate left turns, addition of bike lanes and construction of additional crosswalks and curb ramps at Main Street and Broad Street. These improvements can be made without widening the road, avoiding impacts to adjacent properties. The concept for this project was first identified in the 2014 Downtown Streetscape Plan and a study was completed in 2022.



Proposed reconfiguration plans for Gay Street between Broad Street and Liberty Street.

“The City is excited to discuss with the community the potential changes on Gay Street – a project that would build upon recent reconfiguration projects to make our City streets safer for travelers while increasing infrastructure for more methods of travel,” Harrisonburg Public Works Transportation Manager Erin Fisher explained. “It is important for us to hear our community’s experiences along this corridor and utilize information gathered, along with information from recent transportation studies, to inform project plans to make this section of Gay Street safer for people to travel.”

The new configuration to this section of Gay Street strives to:

- Make the corridor easier to navigate, given its current configuration and complexity of how vehicular traffic must maneuver
- Make the corridor safer, as the reconfiguration reduces conflicts between vehicles and is anticipated to encourage drivers to not exceed the speed limit.
- Build upon existing and planned bike lane infrastructure, enhancing connectivity
- Create safe and accessible pedestrian facilities by upgrading curb ramps at multiple locations and installing a new crosswalk, with pedestrian signals, across Main Street at Gay Street

The City has recently implemented different types of reconfigurations on Mt. Clinton Pike, Garbers Church Road and East Market Street to reduce crashes, increase safety of travelers and enhance connectivity to existing infrastructure. More information about roadway reconfigurations may be found on the City's website at www.harrisonburgva.gov/roadway-reconfigurations.

Attendees of the April 3 open house will have the opportunity to:

- View before and after proposed project diagrams
- Speak directly with City staff about the project and share ideas
- Express thoughts and questions through a public questionnaire that will be available during and after the event

The project questionnaire will be available at the open house and then digitally until May 1. Written or oral questions and comments may be submitted to Brittany Clem-Hott by emailing brittany.clem-hott@harrisonburgva.gov or calling 540-434-5928, before or after the open house.

Funding for the project is available through the Virginia Highway Improvement Program. More information about the Gay Street Reconfiguration project may be found online at www.harrisonburgva.gov/gay-street-project.

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

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