



**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION  
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

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**TO:** Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Members

**FROM:** Thanh Dang, Public Works Planner

**DATE:** June 11, 2012

**RE:** Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Agenda for Monday May 21, 2012

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The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday May 21, 2012, at 6:00pm in the Community Development classroom, 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg. Meetings are always open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.

Members present included: Charlie Chenault, Carl Droms, Paul Johnston, and Len Van Wyk.

Advisory members, and guests present included: Thanh Dang (Public Works), Dan Fudala (Parks & Rec), Officer Scott Drugo (Police), Suzi Carter (Northend Greenway), and Heather Lantz (resident).

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*Welcome*

**1. Rocktown Trails & Ramblewood Trails**

Dan Fudala gave an update of the work underway at Rocktown Trails in Hillendale Park. The Parks & Recreation Department has been actively working on clearing the area around the existing pump track to create “bermy” trails along the length of the powerlines. Parks & Recreation is utilizing remaining Recreational Trails Program funds awarded from the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation for this project.

Dan Fudala noted that he put together another Recreation Trails Program application, which was submitted in April 2012, for Ramblewood Trails. Proposed are single-track trails on a 50-acre wooded area on the City owned property that is bounded by Ramblewood Road, Greendale Road, and Interstate 81. The Ramblewood Trails is part of the City’s master plan for Ramblewood Fields (park). International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) staff assisted with developing the proposal, but the area has yet to be flagged for trail corridors. It was also noted that Harrisonburg Police are interested in the trails for training.

## **2. Circle Drive to Hillandale Park Connection**

There was discussion about concepts for connecting Circle Drive to Hillandale Park. Interest was expressed in utilizing a paper street off Circle Drive to make the connection, and discussion about notifying adjacent property owners prior to any work being done to create a new pathway. It was acknowledged that there is also an unofficial social trail existing at another location between Circle Drive and Hillandale Park. Additionally, there is a property owner on Circle Drive who has expressed interest in donating or dedicating land to the City for a connection.

Thanh Dang provided a brief overview of the vision to have paths and neighborhood streets connect the West Market Street area and Thomas Harrison Middle School, to Hillandale Park and the surrounding neighborhoods, and to Harrisonburg High School.

Thanh Dang was tasked to follow up with the property owner on Circle Drive, and also research the language of the powerline easement that exists in the area.

## **3. Bicycle Counts & Survey Project Update**

Thanh Dang updated that pilot counts were conducted in April and the data is being compiled. There will be a larger scale count in September.

## **4. Bike Month events / Bike to Work Day recap**

Suzi Carter, Carl Droms, and Thanh Dang updated the group on Harrisonburg Bike to Work Day on May 18, which was celebrated in conjunction with National Bike to Work Day. A breakfast was set up on Court Square at which over 100 bike commuters came to. There was also a happy hour in the evening at Clementine Cafe. Although final tallies have not been completed, initial estimates are that over 200 people participated in Harrisonburg altogether. Bike to Work Day is a way to encourage people to try bike commuting. Many first time bike commuters who participated for a little friendly competition find themselves bike commuting more often in the future. More information on Harrisonburg Bike to Work Day, workplace teams, prize winners, and more is available at <http://www.hburgbike2work.org/>.

May was also Bike Month and there were a number of Bike Rodeos hosted in the area at Waterman Elementary School, Smithland Elementary School (over 50 kids participated), Parks & Rec (over 25 kids participated), and Bridgewater (over 35 participated). Kids and parents were taught basic traffic safety, minor bike repairs were available, and were given the opportunity to ride the training course for fun.

## **5. Update for projects under design/construction (Attachment B)**

### **a. Thanh Dang reviewed the project list in Attachment B. Additionally:**

For the Cale Trail, the group discussed the implementation plan that needs to be developed and shared with stakeholders (Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Thomas Harrison Middle School, and Mr. & Mrs. Cale). The group discussed that the next step of the project could be to have volunteers (e.g. Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition members) work with Dan Fudala on clearing the corridor that has been marked by Rich Edwards. Hard surfacing of this corridor can come at a later time when funding is available. Additionally, coordination with Parks & Recreation and those managing the disc golf course at Westover Park is needed in order to connect the trail from the former Cale property to the Community

Activities Center. Thanh Dang will work with Paul Johnston and Dan Fudala on developing the implementation plan.

For the Bluestone Trail, Paul Johnston noted that he, Thanh Dang, Thomas Jenkins, and Bill Whiteman (resident of the Purcell Park neighborhood) had met with RMH Wellness Center staff to share with them the Bluestone Trail concept and to request their assistance with promoting the project to their customers. Thanh Dang will be developing maps for display at RMH. There is also opportunity for cross promotion of both the Bluestone Trail and Northend Greenway together.

#### **b. Downtown Master Streetscape Plan introduction**

Thanh Dang gave a brief introduction of the Downtown Master Streetscape Plan project that city staff and downtown stakeholders have been working on. More information at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/downtown-streetscape-plan>. She asked that Subcommittee and Advisory members begin familiarizing themselves with the plan by going to the weblink provided and that she would update the group on when the public input meeting would be held where all community members can provide comments.

Additionally, the Federal Street concept (shown in Attachment C in rough draft form) will be further developed with the Downtown Master Streetscape Plan.

#### **c. Northend Greenway updates**

Suzi Carter provided an update of the Northend Greenway project. She has been working on defining what the role of the nonprofit group and the City's is, and has discussed with Thanh Dang the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Northend Greenway and City of Harrisonburg.

The Northend Greenway is also establishing committees and action teams and is soliciting volunteers to participate. Those action teams and planning committees are: Design, Education, Communications, Fundraising & Events, City Relations, Landowner Relations, Finance, and Admin. & Office Support. There will be 2 volunteer meetings on Wednesday May 23 at Morrison Mark (Waterman ES).

Public input meetings, specific to neighborhoods, are forthcoming.

Suzi Carter has also been in discussions with JMU faculty and staff to solicit assistance from JMU faculty, staff, students, etc. to help with visioning the Northend Greenway as well visioning an extension of the path from the south terminus of the Northend Greenway through downtown to the Farmers Market and further south to connect with the Bluestone Trail.

Thanh Dang will be working up a new City Map that shows the trail projects currently underway. This map would help community members envision a trail network that is under development now and see how they might be connected to it (e.g. Northend Greenway, Bluestone Trail, Cale Trail, etc.).

*Other Business/Announcements*

### **6. New City website and "Biking & Walking" webpage**

Thanh Dang showed the group the new City website and new webpage with Biking and Walking resources, <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/biking-and-walking>. She will be adding information on bike safety and asked that comments and suggestions to improve the webpage and other related resources be sent to her.

A suggestion was made to have information on the website for individuals with disabilities. That is, a webpage that would show them what recreational facilities are accessible.

## **7. Other**

There was a brief discussion about the Subcommittee's term limits. There are currently no term limits established for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee. Subcommittee members are appointed by the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission. Individuals interested in becoming a Subcommittee member should contact Thanh Dang for an application and would be considered when a vacancy opens. Thanh Dang will discuss this further with the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee members.

There was a street light requested at Hartman Drive and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street where the Rockingham Drive trail is. Thanh Dang will follow up on this.

*Next Meeting: July 23, 2012 at 6pm in the Community Development Classroom, 409 South Main Street*

*Adjourn*

## **Attachment B: Update on City Projects under design and construction**

For the May 21, Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting:

### PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- East Market Street Sidewalk Phase III – Construct a 5-ft wide sidewalk with 3-ft grass strip on south side of East Market Street between University Boulevard and Evelyn Byrd Avenue. Estimated cost: >\$250,000. Funded by VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.
  - UPDATE: Construction bids received and A&J Construction & Development was selected. Construction began and to be completed August 31, 2012.

### PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN/ PLANNING

- Bluestone Trail Phase I – Construct a 10-ft wide shared use path between Port Republic Road at Bluestone Drive to Wellness Drive off Berry Road. Estimated cost: Being developed. No funding for construction yet available.
  - UPDATE: City Council endorsed the alignment at the December 13, 2011 meeting ([video streaming](#)). On call engineering consultant, McCormick Taylor, tasked to work on engineering design for the Bluestone Trail and is currently developing a scope of work. Public meeting to be hosted in 2012. Anticipated engineering to be completed by early 2013. City submitted application for DCR Land & Water Conservation Grant and will work on application for VDOT Recreational Access Program grant.
- Cale Trail – Shared use path to connect Thomas Harrison Middle School and Westover Park through the former Cale property that was donated to the City by Dr. William Cale and Mrs. Susan Cale.
  - UPDATE: City staff and subcommittee members are working on the development of an implementation plan. No funding yet available for construction.
- Chicago Avenue/Mt. Clinton Pike Walking Path (Temporary Improvements) - Construct and delineate a level, hard-surfaced walking path on the west side of Chicago Avenue from Greystone Street to Mt. Clinton Pike and on Mt. Clinton Pike from Park Road to the Common Grounds shopping center. The walking path will be between 3-5 ft wide.
  - UPDATE: Construction of walking path on Chicago Avenue currently underway.
- Downtown Master Streetscape Plan – Expansion of previous Downtown Streetscape Plan (2004) to provide a comprehensive downtown streetscape plan that will develop a vision for all streets in the study area to develop public and private expectation for project elements. Study areas include the Downtown Core, Downtown Transition Area, and Downtown Gateways. More information available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/downtown-streetscape-plan>
  - Staff continues to work on updating draft plan following Committee feedback received in Spring 2012. A public input meeting will occur in 2012.
- East Market Street Sidewalk Phase IV – Construct a 5-ft wide sidewalk with 2-ft grass strip on south side of East Market Street between Carlton Street and 400' north of Hawkins Street. This

project will also include pedestrian signals at the intersections of East Market Street with Carlton Street and Hawkins Street/Vine Street. Estimated cost: greater than \$ 400,000. Funded by VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.

- UPDATE: Surveying and engineering design underway by city staff.
- Safe Routes to School: Waterman Elementary School – Sidewalks on west side of Chicago Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Rockingham Drive, bike lanes on Chicago Avenue between Gay Street and Rockingham Drive, sidewalk on south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Collicello Street to Stuart Street, sidewalk on east side of Stuart Street, sidewalks on both sides of Virginia Avenue from about 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Estimate cost: ~\$500,000. Funded by VDOT SRTS Program and city funds.
  - UPDATE: 100% engineering design completed. Waiting still on 5 out of 56 property owners for final agreement letters and deeds. Project construction start date hoped for Summer/Fall 2012.
- Thomas Harrison Middle School to Wyndham Woods shared use path – Construct a path from Wyndham Wood Drive to Thomas Harrison Middle School and West Market Street. This project is in the planning phase and is not yet funded.
  - UPDATE: Thanh called property owner on March 22, 2012 to inquire of their interest to donate land to the City for the connection. Under consideration.
- University Boulevard Sidewalk: Construct sidewalks along the north side of University Boulevard between East Market Street to Evelyn Byrd Avenue, and a portion of Evelyn Byrd Avenue on the west side between University Boulevard and the existing sidewalk.
  - UPDATE: Right-of-way with all but one of the property owners has been cleared. Public Works staff near completion with final property.

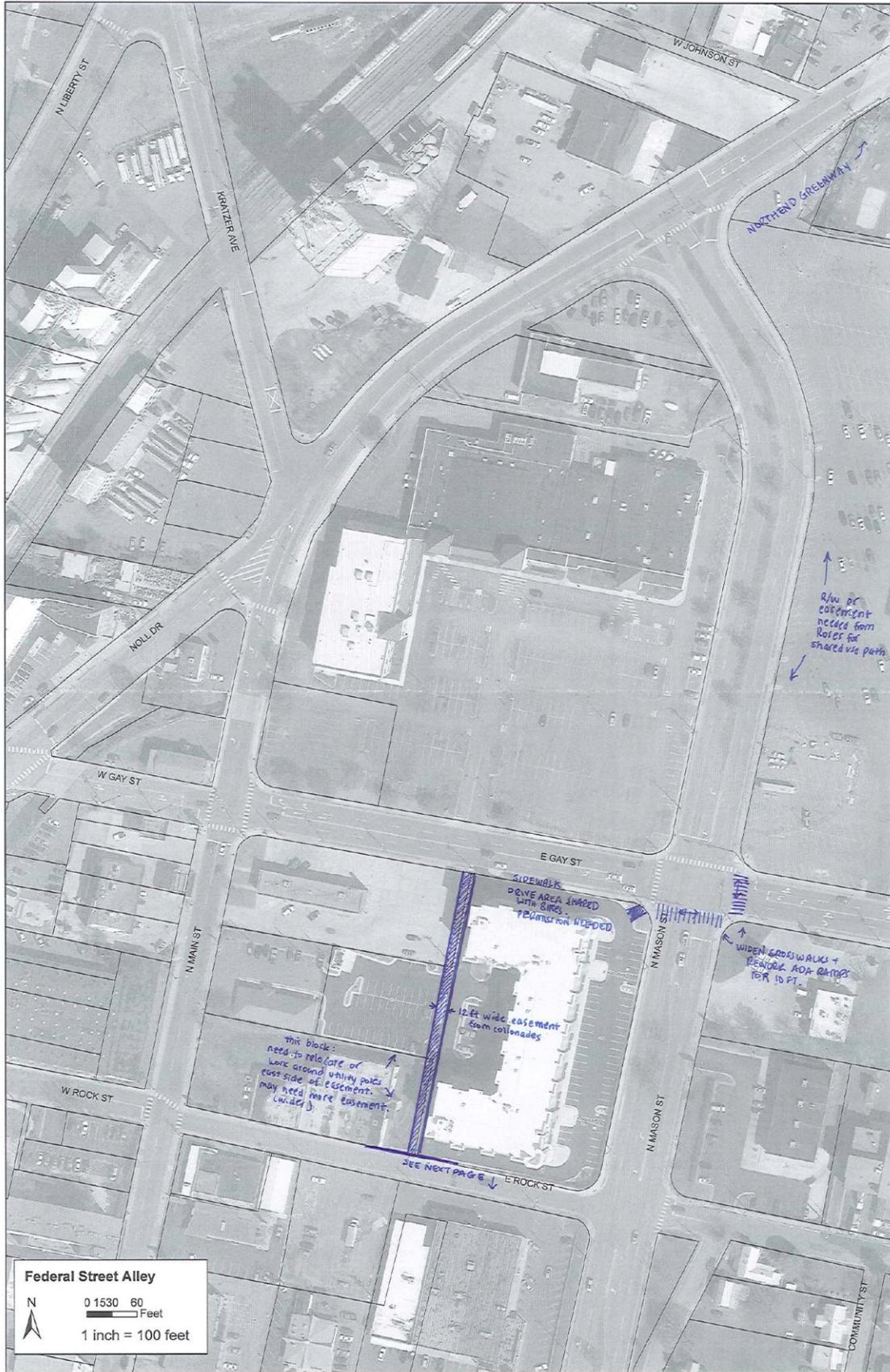
## **ATTACHMENT C: Federal St Concepts**

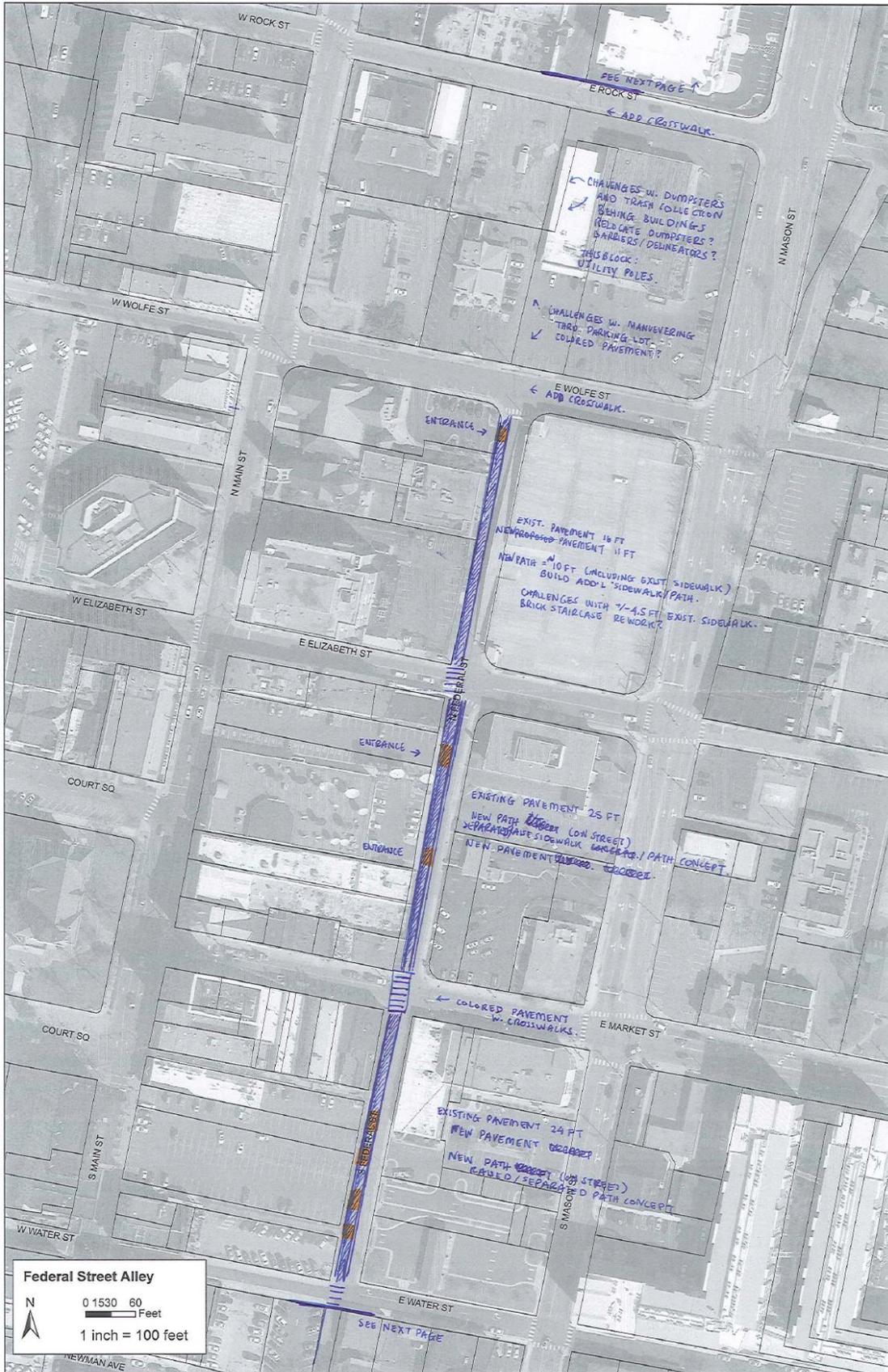
Below are rough concepts developed by Public Works staff. These concepts have not been endorsed by any organization, agency, or property owners, but serve as a point to continue discussions about the Federal Street corridor.

Proposed is to change Federal Street from mostly 2-way vehicular traffic to 1-way vehicular traffic for the entire corridor. This would provide enough space to create a shared use path in the existing roadway area. In some cases, existing sidewalk area would also need to be converted into the shared use path area to provide the minimum 10-ft required.

Vehicular access to Federal Street needs to be maintained in order to accommodate the parking lots that only have access via Federal Street. It is also being proposed that vehicular traffic on Federal Street north of East Market Street travel only northbound, and vehicular traffic on Federal Street south fo East Market Street travel only southbound.

The shared use path would allow pedestrians and cyclists to travel both northbound and southbound.



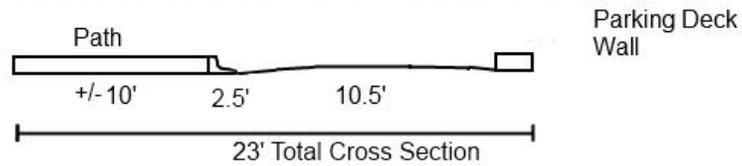




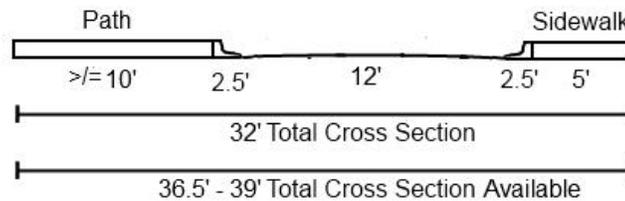
## Federal Street (Gay Street - Franklin Street)

\*East Gay Street to East Wolfe Street concepts not yet developed

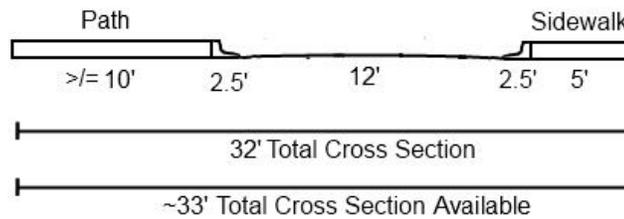
### East Wolfe Street to East Elizabeth Street



### East Elizabeth Street to East Market Street

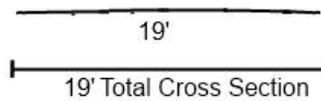


### East Market Street to East Water Street



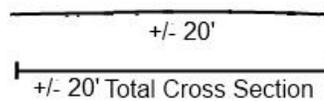
### East Water Street to Newman Ave

(Closed to motor vehicles)



### Newman Avenue to Bruce Street

(Closed to thru traffic)



### Bruce Street to Franklin Street

(Closed to thru traffic)

