



**To:** Chairperson and E&CD Committee  
**From:** Matthew Lew, PE, Civil Engineer  
**Through:** Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works  
**Date:** February 24, 2022  
**Subject:** March Meeting—Downtown Sidewalks Overview

## Overview

The Downtown Sidewalks Improvement Project is a project included within the Village's current 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program. The current project budget is \$2,700,000 for construction and \$300,000 for construction engineering services and is funded through the Downtown TIF Fund. The project is scheduled for design in 2022 and construction in 2023. The Downtown Sidewalks Improvement Project is anticipated to be the first of two construction improvement phases along St. Charles Road, and both phases are generally scheduled in Spring 2023-Summer 2024. Anticipated construction would commence in Spring 2023 prior to the Downtown TIF expiration and coincide with the Federally funded 2024 St. Charles Resurfacing Improvements Project anticipated to commence in Spring 2024. This phased construction schedule should reduce business and resident inconvenience.

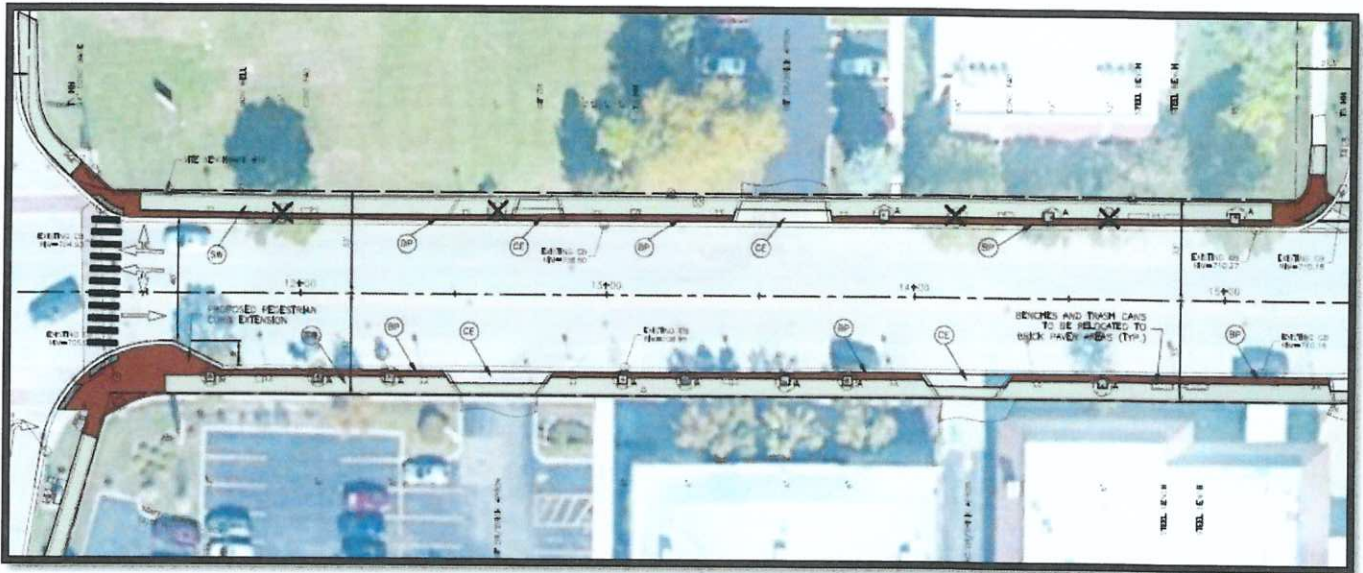
The Village installed the existing brick paver sidewalks, tree vaults, and streetscape elements throughout the downtown in 1995. The downtown area has approximately 35,000 square feet of brick paver surface. Due to tree growth and base failures, walking surface areas are heaved and uneven. The current condition of the sidewalks creates a liability to the Village. The sidewalk project area is the St. Charles Road corridor from Elizabeth Street east to Garfield Street. The sidewalk segment between Garfield Street and Grace Street would be an anticipated future improvement project; however, the Village has funded the design engineering for this segment in conjunction with the west phase.

The project team completed a downtown concept plan in December 2020, and that plan was reviewed by the Public Works and Environmental Concerns Committee in April 2021. The project team is now performing detailed design (Phase 2) engineering services along St. Charles Road from Elizabeth Street to Grace Street.

Project improvements include concrete sidewalk installation, decorative paver edging, and improved pedestrian accommodations. Streetscape elements will be placed within the paver area. The majority of existing roadway curb and parkway trees will remain, and the existing concrete ribbon curb adjacent to the buildings is also proposed to remain. The brick pavers beside the concrete walking surface will follow the Downtown Revitalization Guide color palette, and the pavers will be inlaid into the concrete surface to minimize future settlement of the pavers. The paver area will generally extend from the edge of the tree vaults to the curb line, as depicted in the below example image.



The project concept plan showed the general layout of the streetscape improvements throughout the corridor. Project components and details are now being refined within detailed design engineering. Below is a portion of the project concept plan.



The project concept plan shows some anticipated specific improvements including saving or replacing 70% of existing trees, reusing 75% of existing curb and gutter, utilizing Downtown Lombard Brown on corridor pavers, and completing the foundation for a new bicycle shelter to be located in the pedestrian plaza adjacent to the 7-Eleven. The forthcoming detailed design plans will be available to downtown businesses and the general public. These documents are scheduled to be available in Summer 2022. Prior to the plans being finalized, input from the public and merchants will be sought through an open house meeting. The Village will utilize social media and other electronic means of communication to communicate project details and schedules.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Economic and Community Development Committee support the current project direction.