

MAIN STREET HIGH SIDE PROJECT UPDATES



Welcome to the Main Street High Side Project Newsletter!

The goal of this newsletter is to keep our community informed about the progress of the Main Street High Side Project. This newsletter will include regular construction updates, answers to frequently asked questions and provide important contacts for those desiring more information.

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What is the High Side Project?

The Main Street High Side Project is a City of Winchester project to make improvements on the high side of Main Street (the side with steps) between Broadway Street and Lexington Avenue.

The project will provide many benefits to the community, including access for all users, improved safety, mobility, business enhancement, historic enhancement, support of downtown activities, beautification and a destination area.

In March 2022, Palmer Engineering presented the Winchester City Commission with a proposal related to the design. The proposal was comprised of tasks that included survey/GIS, preliminary design concepts and final plan development. The total proposed and approved engineering fee was \$256,000 with the fee divided at \$116,000 (preliminary) and \$140,000 (final). Monies to be utilized for this work included the current capital allocation for the Broadway Handicap Ramp (\$125,000) and existing TIF monies (approximately \$100,000).

In October 2023, Rocky Adkins, senior advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear, was in Winchester to award \$5.5 million to the City of Winchester for the project. “These dollars ... are not given; they’re earned,” Adkins said. “You all already have a great community and a great place, but what this does for you is give you that advantage you need to build the kind of community you want to build for the future.”

The City was also the recipient of a TAP Grant (80/20) for \$4.44 million to construct the project.

As such, the engineering work was initiated and is nearly complete. Capital allocations have been reviewed for the Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget cycle to fund the

remainder of the needed work.

Bidding on the project is expected to take place before the end of 2024.

Renderings give a glimpse at finished project





Gas line improvements begin Nov. 20

Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 20, Columbia Gas will be working along Church Alley on gas line improvements related to the High Side project. Work will begin with installing a main line on Church Alley and should take approximately two weeks. While there may be some traffic delays on Church Alley while work is occurring, the road should remain passable. During the project, Columbia Gas intends to move all meters from the front to the back of the buildings on the High Side. More work on the gas line improvements will take place once construction begins in earnest in early 2025.

For more information about the gas line improvements, contact Engineering Technician Daron Stephens at dstephens@winchesterky.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline of the project?

Bidding on the project should take place before the end of 2024. The project is scheduled for one full construction season -- from February through November 2025.

On which end of Main Street will construction start?

Construction is projected to begin on the Lexington Avenue end and progress toward Broadway. However, this is a recommendation only. Federal law prevents the City from mandating the contractor's specific schedule. If the contractor chooses a different sequence, they must provide adequate reasoning as to why the recommended phasing is not feasible.

What is the estimated cost of the project? From where will the funds come?

The estimated project cost is \$5.5 million, with the majority funded by a Federal LTAP grant, monies awarded to the City from Gov. Andy Beshear and additional matching funds from City contributions.

What sort of community input was sought for the project?

Public hearings were held where multiple design options and features were presented. Attendees were given the opportunity to vote on or comment regarding the proposed elements to ensure community perspectives were included.

More FAQs will be included in subsequent newsletters. Do you have a question? Email your questions to wleggett@winchesterky.com.

Need more information?

Do you desire more information or have concerns about the project? Contact City Manager Bruce Manley at bmanley@winchesterky.com or Engineering Technician Daron Stephens at dstephens@winchesterky.com.

Are you a downtown business that desires an in-person meeting to discuss the project? Contact Whitney Leggett, director of strategic communications and downtown development, at wleggett@winchesterky.com.

City of Winchester | 32 Wall Street or PO Box 40 | Winchester, KY 40391 US

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