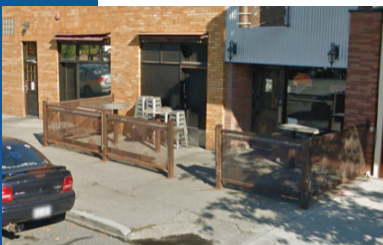




2017 NORTH MONROE STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Introduction

The City of Spokane is working on a major project to improve safety, enhance the streetscape, and reconfigure traffic on North Monroe Street. The project, slated for construction in 2017, will improve pedestrian access and create a more cohesive business area, while continuing to support daily traffic volumes.



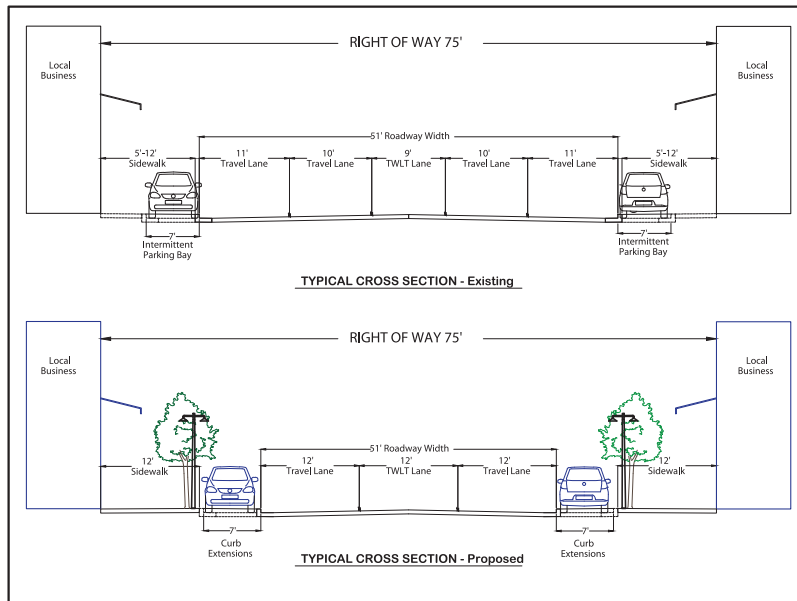
The Project

The project includes a variety of improvements along Monroe Street from north of Indiana Avenue to Kiernan, near the top of the Monroe Street hill. Funded elements include:

- Restriping for two travel lanes and a center turn lane from Shannon to Cora.
- Widened, 10-foot sidewalks on both sides of the street.
- Curb extensions that frame parking and reduce pedestrian crossing distances.
- An updated traffic signal at the intersection of Monroe and Montgomery.
- Improved crossings with pedestrian refuge islands at four intersections.
- Pedestrian lighting along the project length.
- Stormwater structures to treat runoff.
- An additional climbing lane to accommodate slower traffic northbound up the hill from Cora to Kiernan.
- Improved transit connections.

City leaders also are looking at the possibility of integrating other elements into the project, including replacing or improving the pavement surface, completing utility updates, and adding transit amenities.

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Background

North Monroe Street is a vital north-south arterial link through our community, the commercial hub of the Emerson Garfield neighborhood, and an identified corridor in the City's Comprehensive Plan. It's also an important route for public transit and provides key services for the public.

Revitalizing and reconfiguring North Monroe Street is identified as a top priority in the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Action Plan, which was adopted by the City Council in the summer of 2014. The plan outlines a number of goals that this project would help address, including pedestrian safety, neighborhood beautification, business diversity, access to resources, and support for transportation options. In January, the City received \$4.1 million in state and federal funding for safety and streetscape work. The project is expected to begin in 2017.

Street Reconfiguration

At the heart of the project is the reconfiguration of the street to two travel lanes with a center turn lane, down from four travel lanes with a narrow center turn lane today. With 17,000 vehicles a day on this section of street, North Monroe is a great candidate for this kind of conversion. Studies have shown that such changes reduce collisions and aggressive speeding, improving safety for pedestrians and motorists. The City has seen these results first hand on Sprague Avenue from Grant to Cook Street and on 29th Avenue from Cedar to Grand. Indeed, safety is main driver for this change.

The changes also create a better business environment. Customers are more likely to travel the speed limit through a business area and to use the roomier parking stalls. Access from side streets and driveways is improved because motorists only have to cross one travel lane. Pedestrian traffic often increases, as does the use of transit. And in this case, parking can be added in front of businesses that don't have such parking today. The changes do require an initial adjustment period for street users.

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