

MEETING MINUTES
MAIN STREET – 500 Block Rehabilitation
PIN 5760.39
Stakeholders Design Meeting

DATE: November 8, 2012
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: Buffalo Place Conference Room
ATTENDEES: See attached sign-in sheet
ATTACHMENTS: Sign In Sheet

A meeting was held with the City of Buffalo, Buffalo Place, and the Stakeholders to obtain feedback on the conceptual design presented for the 500 Block of Main Street Rehabilitation project. Introductions were made by John Bidell and an agenda was distributed to all. A summary of the meeting and the decisions made are as follows:

Street Alignment:

1. Peter Ringo gave a brief summary of the design plan elements presented at the October 25th meeting. At the end of the summary, the meeting was opened up to questions/comments on the plan.
2. James Sandoro, who owns the building at 529 Main Street, inquired about the reason for the shift in alignment for Mohawk Street, the narrowness of the street, and the lack of on-street parking on Mohawk between Main and Pearl Streets. John Bidell stated that Carl Paladino has an agreement with the City of Buffalo to occupy the area along the north side of Mohawk for existing parking. John stated that discussions were held with Mr. Paladino regarding the reopening of Mohawk Street, and the filling of Mr. Paladino's vault located along the entire south side of Mohawk Street, to provide the required travel lanes and sidewalks. Mr. Sandoro inquired about the lane widths in the section between Main and Pearl. John stated that the west section of Mohawk will have two 10' lanes (the City's absolute minimum is 9'), a 5' sidewalk on the north side and a 7' sidewalk on the south side. The east side would have 11' travel lanes and 8' parking lanes. The shift in alignment is intended to provide a wider sidewalk for the café located along east segment of Mohawk Street.
3. Steve Carmina stated that his understanding was that this project will resolve the on-street parking issues. Steve stated that there is a lack of on-street public parking within the area. He said that not providing any parking on Mohawk between Main to Pearl is a mistake and a burden on businesses such as his. Steve stated that there should be on-street parking on both sides of Mohawk between Pearl and Main Streets.
4. Steve Carmina stated that by shifting the Mohawk Street alignment between Main and Washington in order to accommodate the section of Mohawk between Main and Pearl reduces the corner sidewalk width on Mohawk between Main and Washington. He stated that the Mohawk Street alignment with Main Street should be a straight alignment.
5. John Visco, who owns the building at 496 Main Street, inquired about the impact of the proposed Mohawk Street/Main Street alignment along his property. Steve Carmina stated that the street will be shifting away from his building to the south.

6. A question was raised about the access to the Convention Center building for trucks. John Bidell stated that there are no provisions for access now, and the alignment shift would have less impact than a center alignment. Steve Carmina stated that he thought that this project would provide parking on both sides of the street. John Bidell stated that on-street parking along Mohawk Street is not a requirement of the grant, but opening up Mohawk Street for two way traffic is.
7. A number of stakeholders present wanted a straight rather than skewed alignment of East Mohawk Street with Main Street. John Bidell stated that a straight alignment (90°) will be designed for this section of Mohawk Street.
8. John Bidell asked if anyone had any questions about the alignment of the Genesee Street connection between Main Street and Huron Street. Sandra Wilkins, who owns 537 Main Street, plans to open a restaurant with a sidewalk dining area and wanted to know the width of the sidewalk along the proposed Genesee Street connection. Peter Ringo responded that the sidewalk along that section between the building and the on-street parking is 20 feet wide. John mentioned that there will be removable bollards installed along the parking lane and that the parking lane could be closed for special occasions, if required, providing a 28 foot sidewalk area. He also mentioned that Genesee Street could also be closed to traffic with bollards at each end, if required, during special events. The sidewalk along Main Street is typically around 25'.
9. John Bidell mentioned that the Genesee Street alignment could be shifted slightly to the north as long as it doesn't align with the one-way segment from the northeast. The overall consensus was to shift Genesee Street by 5 feet to the north in order to provide a 25 foot sidewalk, understanding that a parking space may be lost. John stated that the streetscape and landscape design would be presented with the 25 foot sidewalk.
10. John stated that a decision needs to be made regarding mountable curb parking (soft parking) and hard parking along Main Street. The soft parking option would have removable bollards to increase the sidewalk width during special events. The hard parking option would have curb cuts with designated parking spaces. The overall consensus was to move forward with soft parking with removable bollards along both sides of Main Street.
11. A question was raised about the moving/maintaining of bollards for special events. John stated that the City will be meeting with Buffalo Place to determine maintenance agreements along Main Street.
12. Steve Carmina inquired if removable bollards could be installed at both ends of Mohawk Street between Main and Washington Streets for special events. John Bidell stated that it could be done if the stakeholders wanted them. The consensus was to provide removable bollards for East Mohawk Street, with hard parking on both sides of the street between Main and Washington Streets.

Station Design Concept:

13. Bryce Bixby presented the three options for the renovation of the existing Fountain Plaza Stations using a 3D model to convey the look of the stations in front of M&T Bank. The three options were described in the October 25, 2012 meeting and posted online for review by stakeholders.
14. Jim Sandoro inquired if NFTA will have bus services along Main Street. John Bidell stated that operation of buses along Main Street will be NFTA's decision.
15. Pros and cons were discussed in considering one structure vs. two separate structures. John Bidell asked if anyone was opposed to keeping all options available for the overall Main Street project to allow flexibility in future phases. There were no objections.

16. Questions were raised regarding station lighting and sound. Bryce stated that the intent is to wash the stations in light to improve the overall lighting effect. The existing sound system will be integrated into the renovated stations.
17. The overall consensus for the 500 Block stations (to be designated as 'Theatre-Fountain Plaza Station'), is Option C. Further discussion included possibly extending the eave to cover the ticket machines and providing heat only along the platform ramp.

Heated Sidewalks:

18. The question was asked if any property owners intend to install heated sidewalks in front of their building. John Bidell reiterated that the property owner is responsible for installing the heating components. The project will accommodate this installation in the design of the sidewalks. Owners of 487, 496, 529 and 537 Main Street plan to pursue the option of heated sidewalks.
19. Bob VonLangen inquired if the City would install the trench drains along the heated sidewalks. John Bidell stated that the building owners will need to install the trench drains and the City will connect the trench drains to the street drainage system under the project.

Vault Abandonments:

20. Owners of 487, 521 and 529 Main Street would like to abandon the building vaults under the Main Street sidewalk. John Bidell stated that the owners will need to construct a wall along their property line, designed by a professional engineer, before the City can fill in the vaults under the project.

Police Cameras:

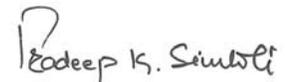
21. The City of Buffalo with the Buffalo Police Department will be installing surveillance cameras as part of the 500 Block project. Robert Dingwall of the Buffalo Police Department stated that the City will be installing four (4) cameras. The suggested locations for the four cameras are; the Main Street/Mohawk Street intersection, the Main Street/Huron Street intersection; the Washington Street/Mohawk Street intersection; near the mid-block of the Fountain Plaza area adjacent to the Rotary Rink. The exact locations will be finalized once the landscape plans are completed in order to provide the maximum coverage of the areas without the interference from trees. The cameras have a 360° coverage view.

Next Stakeholders Meeting

22. The next Stakeholders meeting for the project is scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 2:00 P.M., at Buffalo Place.

These Meeting Minutes represent our understanding of the items discussed and/or agreed upon during this meeting. Any additions, corrections, or revisions by those present shall be directed (in writing) to the undersigned or they will be considered accurate and complete.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pradeep Simlote,
DiDonato Associates

cc: Attendees
att.: Sign in Sheet
Greg Leonard – MNLA
Terrie Brightman - MNLA



CITY OF BUFFALO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MAIN STREET – 500 BLOCK REHABILITATION
STAKEHOLDERS DESIGN MEETING
SIGN-IN-SHEET



November 8, 2012, 9:00 AM

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