



July 10, 2014

Volume 3

We are very pleased to report this month that the Phase 1 construction project is “out to bid”. The plans are being distributed and made available to interested contractors and the city provided copies of the plans to “Plan Rooms” which are entities that have memberships available to contractors who can come review the plans easily. These steps will help to assure that the maximum number of contractors are informed about the work and then will hopefully submit bids. Eleven contractors or suppliers have picked up a set of plans so far (great news!) and this will hopefully result in some very competitive bids. It has been quite an effort to get our project to this point and we are excited that the phase 1 project should soon become a reality.

Cris Bohinc

Patrick Parnell

IT IS CALLED **HEAVY**

CONSTRUCTION FOR A REASON

If streetscape construction could be completed in the manner desired, the contractor would slip in and quietly go about the construction. It would be clean, silent and unobtrusive. There would be no negative impacts on businesses and interruptions would not occur. Unfortunately... there isn't a “Magic Fairy” helping with this project.



Heavy Construction means there will be large earth moving machines at work. The machines will shake the ground and for safety reasons they will “beep” every time they back up. Trucks will come and go. Materials will be stockpiled. There will be dust and noise. It will truly be a major construction site and there is no way to accomplish the great improvements to our Downtown that are planned without going through this process.

All Downtown stakeholders will no doubt experience some degree of inconvenience as this project moves forward, but our shared sacrifice now will yield great divides for the future of Branson's Historic Downtown District.

YOUR EMPLOYEES ARE CRITICAL

We want to encourage all Downtown business owners to take the time to meet with your employees in the near future to explain the vision and scope of the project, share your enthusiasm about what's happening and answer questions some may have about the project in general. Let them know that you see these changes to the Downtown Streetscape as beneficial to all concerned. With your input and guidance, your employees can emphasize the positives of the project to your customers and help diffuse any irritation from inconveniences that visitors may experience. By explaining how beautiful and inviting the completed project will be, your employees can become ambassadors for future visits to the Downtown and make them excited to return and see the results of the construction. If you need any information to help explain the project to your employees, please contact the city and they will provide any details needed.

ACCESS DURING CONSTRUCTION

With very few exceptions, the construction plans and phasing sequence has been designed so that all businesses will always have pedestrian access to their front door. The intention is to never restrict visitors to any establishment. In addition, the traffic management plan for Commercial Street and Pacific Street is such that one way traffic and “some” parking will be maintained at all times within a reasonable distance from most businesses. Any disruptions in this access will be minimized and of short duration. College Street between Veterans and Commercial, however, will be closed during portions of the work.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact
City Engineer, David Miller at 417-337-8559

<http://www.bransonstreetscape.com>