



August 12, 2014

Volume 4

### BID OPENING

Bids have now been opened for the Phase 1 Downtown Streetscape improvement project. Bids were received from six construction firms. The bids were as follows:

D&E Plumbing:	\$2,563,445
Tom Boyce Excavating:	\$2,755,578
Hunter Chase:	\$2,799,999
Branson Construction:	\$2,830,768
National Streetscape:	\$2,893,753
Emery Sapp & Sons:	\$3,474,382

Although the bids exceeded the originally anticipated cost estimates, the quality of the bids was excellent. If construction bids are all relatively close in size, then it shows that the contractors have worked hard to reduce their costs and be most competitive. In this case, other than the one highest bid, all of the other bids are within 13% of each other.

Currently the City's consulting engineer, along with the city staff, is analyzing the apparent low bid and determining if any cost reductions can be made to the project to help lower the overall cost. The items being considered for cost reductions are all features that will not impact the theme and desired aesthetics or image desired for the improvement project. When the analysis is complete, the bids will be presented to the Board of Aldermen for consideration of a bid award.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, or would simply like additional information on the project, please contact David Miller the Branson City Engineer at 417-337-8559

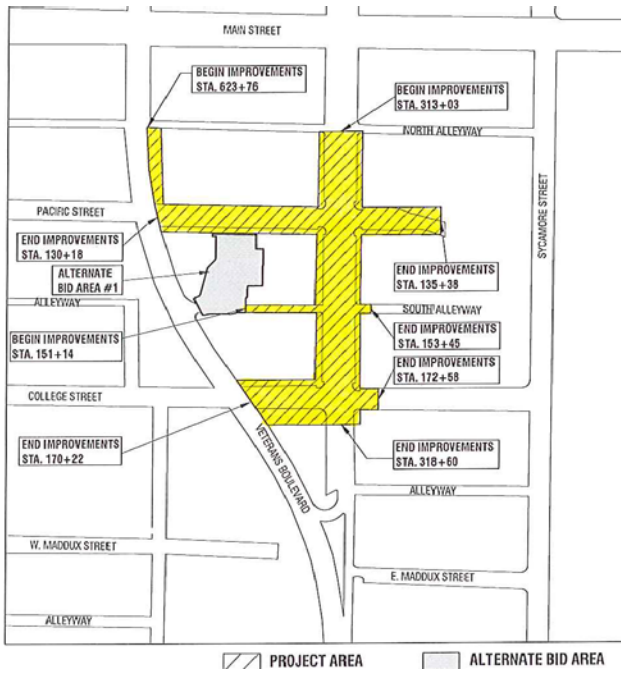
### ITEMS IN THE PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION

Some questions have been raised regarding exactly what type of improvements will result from the planned Phase 1 construction of the streetscape improvements. Frequently it is assumed that the streetscape improvements are only "new sidewalks" or perhaps better lighting, but in reality, the improvements encompass many different items. The various expenditures in these categories are approximated below:

Excavation & Fill:	9%	(\$231,000)
Street Pavement:	13%	(\$336,000)
Water System:	10%	(\$258,000)
Storm Drainage:	9%	(\$224,000)
Sidewalks:	14%	(\$353,000)
Traffic Control:	6%	(\$142,000)
Structural Walls:	5%	(\$128,000)
Landscaping:	7%	(\$169,000)
Electrical:	6%	(\$156,000)
Furnishings:	10%	(\$266,000)
Irrigation:	3%	(\$70,000)
Lighting:	9%	(\$230,000)

### WOODEN STREET LIGHTS

A unique concept for the project is the inclusion of "wood" into the improvement amenities. The new benches and waste containers will be constructed of a metal frame with black locust planks. This is an extremely strong maintenance-free wood. An even more notable use of wood will be the new street lights. The poles for these lights will be made of old-growth trees that were thriving in North America before the Europeans arrived. In 1805, as timber in Louisiana was harvested, some of these old trees sunk to the bottom of the Ouachita River. These sinker logs have been retrieved and crafted into street light poles and will be used in Branson.



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