
PRESS RELEASE

2017 Lewiston Main Street Pilot Project



Project background

Beautiful Downtown Lewiston (BDL) is partnering with the City of Lewiston Public Works Department to implement a temporary pilot project on Main Street from April 9 to early June 2017.

Project description

The pilot project will temporarily re-stripe Main Street between 8th and 9th to test out parallel parking on the north side of Main Street, two lanes of east bound traffic and diagonal parking on the south side of Main Street. The project's goals are to slow traffic speeds, increase pedestrian and bike safety in the area and increase parking adjacent to Main Street businesses. There is enough space between the existing curb lines to experiment with these improvements; major street reconstruction is not contemplated at this time.

Project purpose

The purpose of the pilot project is to test methods to create a more pedestrian friendly downtown Lewiston while also increasing parking on Main Street. “I frequently hear from merchants and customers about the need to slow traffic speeds and increase parking in downtown Lewiston,” Courtney Kramer, BDL Executive Director said.

Kramer pointed to the narrower driving lanes included in the pilot project as a design modification that will result in slower vehicle traffic. “People generally drive more cautiously when lanes are narrower,” Kramer said. “And the US 12 bypass is a good option for drivers in a hurry to get past downtown Lewiston to other destinations.”

“...each parking space in front of a business translates to \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year in retail sales.”

*-COURTNEY KRAMER,
BDL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

The pilot project will also introduce diagonal parking on Lewiston’s Main Street for the first time. Community members will have an opportunity to test two types of diagonal parking; nose-in and back-in diagonal parking. Community preference will determine which kind of diagonal parking is included in final implementation of the pilot project, which would propose to remove some of the large concrete planters to extend the number of diagonal parking spaces created.

	Parking Space Counts		
	Current Parking	Pilot Project Phase	If permanently implemented
Location:	Current number of parking spaces	Parking spaces added with diagonal parking	Diagonal parking spaces added with planter removal (estimate, including from 7th to 8th)
From 8th to New 6th	5	1	26
From New 6th to the crosswalk	7	4	25
Total:	12	5	51

“The 2007 Downtown Parking Plan noted that each parking space in front of a business translates to \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year in retail sales,” Kramer said. “The same parking study indicated that most customers will not walk more than 400 feet from a parking space to the front door of the business they intend to visit. Unless a customer walks through a business, the section of Main Street selected for the Pilot Project is outside of the 400-foot walking distance to the F Street public parking lot.”

Value of each parking space: \$17,000	Economic Productivity		
	Current Parking	Pilot Project Phase	If permanently implemented
Location:	Economic productivity of existing spaces	Economic impact of additional parking spaces (\$17,000/ space)	Economic impact of additional parking spaces (\$17,000/ space)
From 8th to New 6th	\$85,000	\$17,000	\$442,000
From New 6th to the crosswalk	\$119,000	\$68,000	\$425,000
	\$204,000	\$85,000	\$867,000

Project future

Public Works will re-stripe the street to implement the project on April 9. BDL and the City of Lewiston will work with stakeholders to gather community feedback during the pilot project period. If the community responds positively to the pilot project permanent implementation may be completed in the summer of 2017.

Project cost

The City of Lewiston’s Department of Public Works will re-stripe the street using staff time and City equipment in order to inexpensively implement the pilot project to gather community feedback. BDL has asked the City of Lewiston for up to \$10,000 to pay for professional engineering to explore the expense of permanent implementation of the narrower driving lanes and diagonal parking tested with the pilot project.

Gathering Community Feedback

BDL and the City of Lewiston want the community’s feedback on the pilot project to decide if the revised street design should be permanently implemented. We’ve developed a short survey asking participants which type of downtown parking they used and if they like or dislike it. Surveys are available in a paper form at businesses between 7th and 9th in Downtown Lewiston, including:

- The Diamond Shop
- Ampersand Oil & Vinegar Tap House
- Discovery Antiques
- Roxy Theater
- Largents Appliances
- The Lewis-Clark Association of Realtors
- Allen & Co. Salon
- The Fourth Wall Art Gallery
- Lost Key Escape Rooms
- US Bank
- Hallmark Picture Gallery
- Sylvan’s Furniture
- Avista
- Happy Day Corporation

The survey is also available on BDL’s website, [here](#).

DIGITAL SURVEY.

Which downtown parking did you use? Did you like or dislike it?

	Liked it	Disliked it
On-street parallel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-street nose-in diagonal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On-street back-in diagonal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-street private parking lot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-street public parking lot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What did you like or dislike about the parking you used?

Sandwich board signs will alert community members to the opportunity to text “PARKBDL” to 87940 and be texted a link to participate in the survey via their smartphone.

Contact

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