



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ODOT RECONSTRUCTION OF OR-47 (WEST MAIN)

February 26, 2020

How did ODOT and the City provide notice of this meeting to the public?

The City did an excellent job of communicating the meeting information. The City sent out 1,154 direct mailers, 560 email notices, made 993 automated telephone calls, posted flyers around the community, utilized social media platforms Nextdoor and Facebook, posted the information on the City's website, contacted the *News-Register* so a news article would be printed, and worked with churches in the community to spread the word.

Will the downtown road closures for two years cause businesses to close?

It is hard to make such a statement with any certainty from the City's perspective, but much anecdotal information from business owners downtown to that effect has been shared. It is important that business owners communicate with the ODOT team and City Council in this regard to minimize the potential damage to the downtown economy.

Why doesn't the community hold out for a third option?

There is no viable third option. Some claims have been made that the City should hold out for a bypass route around the City. To qualify for a bypass, a community must meet certain criteria related to traffic congestion, number of traffic accidents and injuries, as well as future demographic projections. A good example of a successful bypass initiative is the Dundee Bypass. Because of high traffic congestion and traffic accident data, the community began to lobby ODOT in 1988 to consider a bypass. After 31 years of working with ODOT, employing the services of professional lobbyists and organizing citizens in favor, the first phase of the bypass was completed in 2019. The Carlton community can't wait 31 years to address the desperate condition of West Main.

I've heard that if ODOT moves forward with West Main St. or the Realignment, a bypass around the community will never be considered by ODOT. Is that true?

No. The two issues are not connected. ODOT has a road that is failing and unsafe. To delay action to address these important safety issues simply on the hope that a bypass will be undertaken in 20 or 30 years would be irresponsible. Likewise, should ODOT

complete their reconstruction project in 2024 and then years later congestion and traffic accident incidents support consideration of a bypass, work can commence in pursuit of a bypass – like it did in Dundee in 1988.

Will the City of Carlton be able to afford maintenance on West Main if it is handed over to the City?

Yes. If the City takes over maintenance responsibility of West Main (in new road condition) and transfers maintenance responsibility of Pine and Monroe to ODOT, the change will essentially be a wash. No impact on the local streets budget.

Is it true that the community's traditional fundraising events are going to be hurt by these plans?

No. In fact, with control of West Main and the ability to close the street during special events, it is expected that our community events will only flourish.

Will the realignment plan result in trucks driving faster through Carlton preventing people from crossing the new road safely?

No. The same speed limit (20 mph) currently in effect in downtown Carlton will also be applied to the realignment section. Using OR-47 from West Main to West Taylor as a real-life experience, heavy truck traffic and motorists passing through Carlton slow to the posted speed limit and the City has had no issues with the pedestrian crossing located at Polk St.

Will the realignment plan negatively impact the tax base?

No. The amount of property to be purchased by ODOT from private property owners will have a minimal effect, if any, on the overall City tax base which now stands at \$187,536,545. If anything, many expect property along Main Street and the new realignment to gain in value as these properties become more desirable for business investment.

What should I do to communicate my preference of one option or another?

ODOT will be moving forward with the West Main Reconstruction option unless the Carlton community requests that the realignment option be pursued. So, it is important that your opinion is shared with the Carlton City Council. The easiest way to do this is to email City Hall at ddurham@ci.carlton.or.us.

The City will also be sending a request to email addresses in our utility customer database asking residents to complete a very brief survey about the project. We ask that you take the two minutes to offer your opinion. The survey will also be accessible on the City's website www.ci.carlton.or.us.