



SOUTH WILLAMETTE Street Improvement Plan

SAVE THE DATE!

South Willamette Street Improvement Plan

Community Forum #1: Explore the Alternatives

Tuesday, November 13, 6-8 pm

Roosevelt Middle School, 680 East 24th Avenue

Visit <http://www.eugene-or.gov/SWillametteStreet> for more information

Do you drive, walk, bike, take the bus, live or shop on South Willamette Street? If so, please consider attending the first major public event on the project. The meeting will discuss project goals and explore alternatives for future improvements to the design and condition of Willamette Street between 24th and 32nd. If you are interested in attending or joining the email list, please send an email to chris.c.henry@ci.eugene.or.us or call Chris Henry at 541-682-8472.

If you would like to print a longer article, you can include this:

The South Willamette Street Improvement Plan will explore options for people to easily and safely walk, bike, take the bus, or drive in an eight-block study area from 24th Avenue to 32nd Avenue. The goal of this study is to help South Willamette Street become a vibrant urban corridor accessible by bicycle, foot, car, and bus.

Today Willamette Street is heavily used to reach many popular destinations, yet it is uninviting to pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and motorists alike. For years, many residents and business owners have shared complaints about the poor conditions on Willamette Street for walking and biking and the need to do something about it.

The street has two travel lanes in each direction, with no left-turn lanes on the majority of the corridor. The narrow sidewalks are filled with many obstacles, such as mailboxes, utility poles, and trees or landscaping. Nearly 70 driveways cross the sidewalk in this area and create potential hazards for pedestrians and bicyclists. Vehicles stop in the outside travel lanes, blocking traffic.

Over the next 10 months, the South Willamette Street Improvement Plan will develop a complete street design plan for an active transportation corridor (providing for walking, biking, transit access, motoring and business access) that can be adopted and advanced as a capital improvement project for construction.

The Plan aims to:

1. Support existing businesses and the commercial district's vitality,
2. Create a balanced multi-modal transportation system,
3. Further City planning efforts to identify compact growth and redevelopment opportunities,
4. Foster a well-informed and involved community supportive of the plan.

Previous transportation studies of South Willamette Street suggested adding bicycle facilities, pedestrian crossings, improved transit stops, and reducing the number of motor

vehicle travel lanes. This project will study how these changes to street elements could be implemented, and investigate the level of public support for these ideas. Critical to the success of the project is involvement by a variety of people informed by the sharing of information, interests and ideas to establish priorities and consider the tradeoffs between different street design options.

How does the Willamette Street Improvement Plan relate to the South Willamette Concept Plan? The results of this project will refine the street design portion of the South Willamette Concept Plan (www.eugene-or.gov/SWillamette). The Concept Plan creates a long-term vision and identifies tools realizing that vision in the South Willamette area. One important goal of the Concept Plan is to create a neighborhood where services for residents are available in a “20-Minute” walk, and the street functions for a variety of users (www.completestreets.org).

The timing of the South Willamette Street Improvement Plan is good because it melds with the South Willamette Concept Plan, and could be completed in conjunction with needed pavement preservation work.