



Superior Street Reconstruction



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City reconstructing Superior Street?

From 1984-1987, Superior Street was redesigned and reconstructed with red brick pavers. Over 20 years of Duluth weather has caused wear and tear. The upheaval of bricks along the roadway and sidewalks has resulted in an uneven surface that is difficult for pedestrians and snow plows alike. As the brick nears the end of its lifespan, it is time to plan for reconstruction of the street and utilities. The existing water and sewer are well over 100 years old, as they were installed in the 1880s. Replacement of utilities and road surface at the same time is an efficient way to upgrade the City's infrastructure.

What will this project include?

This phase of the project includes Preliminary Design for reconstruction of the roadway and utilities. It includes a final design for possible streetscape amenities such as pedestrian spaces, lighting, and art.

This phase of the project will be followed by a Final Design phase, where engineering and staging are completed, and a Construction phase.

What are the boundaries of this project?

Superior Street will be reconstructed from 6th Avenue W to 4th Avenue E. This project will also study the area from 6th Avenue W to 7th Avenue W and make recommendations for Superior Street's transition to MnDOT right of way. Work on the avenues will be limited to intersections with Superior Street, to construct pedestrian ramps and complete utility tie-ins.

What utilities will be replaced?

All public water, sewer, and a significant amount of the storm sewer will be replaced as part of the reconstruction. The Preliminary Design will also identify opportunities for steam and private utility replacement.

Who is doing the design?

The City has hired the consulting team comprised of LHB and SRF for the Preliminary Design phase.

How long will this take?

The Preliminary Design will be completed by November 2014. Final Design will be conducted in 2015, with Construction anticipated to start in 2016.

When will construction occur? When will you be working on my block?

Construction is anticipated to start in 2016, depending on funding, and will likely take 2-3 years. The Preliminary Design phase will identify the preferred project sequencing.

Will there be access to my business during construction?

The City is committed to maintaining the maximum access possible and recognizes the inconveniences that businesses and residents will face during construction. The Preliminary Design phase will determine the

construction sequencing and will be mindful of access for pedestrians, services, and patron parking.

How much will it cost?

The total cost is unknown at this point. The Preliminary Design phase will identify the preferred paving, utilities, and amenities, and estimate costs associated with the proposed project.

Where will the money come from?

Funding opportunities will be identified as part of the Preliminary Design. The City will look at state aid and City funding, and will pursue grants and other aids. Property assessments will likely be part of the funding package, but it is unknown at this point how much that will be.

Will I be assessed for this project?

It is likely that assessments for property owners will be a part of the funding package along with other resources. Applicable assessment rates will be presented to property owners and approved by the City of Duluth Special Assessment Board and City Council before implementation.

How will the Superior Street Reconstruction Project affect other streets downtown?

During construction, other streets will see heavier traffic as parts of Superior Street are closed to traffic. The City will examine how to route traffic effectively and efficiently during construction.

In the future, any reconstruction of other downtown streets will follow the design theme of Superior Street, in order to reinforce a consistent look and feel to our downtown.

Will the street lights be replaced?

Streetscape amenities, including street lights, will be decided on during the Preliminary Design phase.

Will the street be constructed with bricks?

As part of the Preliminary Design, a variety of surfacing options, including bituminous, concrete, bricks, and other options, will be examined. Many more surfacing options exist today than when the existing bricks were installed 20 years ago, and those options will be looked at in terms of cost, maintenance, durability, and other desired qualities.

Will there be accommodations for bikes?

The City's Complete Streets Policy supports multiple modes of transportation, including pedestrians and bikes. Within the existing 80' right of way, this project aims to balance desires for multiple modes and varying amenities.

What other amenities will be included in the project?

Streetscape elements that may be considered during the street design include kiosks, benches, landscaping, clocks, lighting, bike facilities, public spaces, locations for sidewalk cafes, planters, public art, and other items identified by the public and stakeholders during the design process, with the final amenities decided over the course of the project.

How will parking be accommodated with the completed project?

During the Preliminary Design phase, options for on-street parking will be examined, including diagonal parking, parallel parking and combinations of the two. The project will aim to balance the desires to maximize parking with the need to accommodate all other functions for the street.