



May 2020

The Imagine Downtown Newsletter is back! We know that there hasn't been a lot of information We are officially aback to sending out info much more often and things are going to get moving quickly!

As Guho Corp. bids out the subcontractors for Phase 2 of the project, public outreach will continue with the second Public meeting. Unfortunately, due to the impacts of COVID-19 our options are limited for outreach. To safely accommodate as many people as possible we will have this public meeting via Zoom. **The call in information will be sent out as soon as it is finalized.** During the Zoom meeting people will be able to ask questions and the meeting will be recorded and shared later on the City website and social media. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet will also be compiled and shared with the most asked questions to share with the public following the Zoom meeting. Guho will also be meeting with businesses along N. 2nd E. on May 28th & 29th. We will be walking door-to-door introducing the construction team and answering any questions and concerns businesses may have.

If you have questions please feel free to email the Economic Development Office at MHED@mountain-home.us or call 208-587-2173.



**DOWNTOWN
CONSTRUCTION
MEETING**

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE COMMUNITY
MEETING TO LEARN MORE DETAILS AND
INFORMATION FOR PHASE 2 (N.2nd E.)

VIA ZOOM
(CALL INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW)

JUNE 3RD @ 6PM

Phase 1 Update

In March the Parks Department planted the beds and everything is now starting to bloom and fill in. The final few grasses that needed nicer weather to plant were also recently planted. Right before Mother's Day the Parks Department came out in force and planted all of the planters as well. While these plants are smaller right now, they will fill in quickly and will come back year after year. We are excited to see them fill out this summer! Thank you to the amazing team with the Parks and Rec Department!





Phase 2 Update

Storm water is one of the biggest challenges with Phase 2 of the project. Trying to install the new storm water in very tight constraints due to existing underground infrastructure and with very finite boundaries due to the buildings on both sides of the street was challenging. Guho and Horrocks Engineers worked closely with ITD to ensure that the new storm water system would meet the City and ITD needs and deconflicted with existing infrastructure and facilities. We went through this same process on N. Main St. with great success.

Currently storm water is moved through a system of bubble-ups that push surface water from the street underground for a short distance where it then bubbles back up to the surface and is carried along the street once again to the next bubble up. The bubble up system is antiquated and moves the water above ground. It doesn't have adequate capacity when we have downpours of any duration. The new storm water system will move the bulk of water underground through inlets and piping rather than relying on the road to carry the bulk of the water.

Storm water issues became front and center on May 8th when Mountain Home experienced a

storm that brought high winds, thunderstorms and downpours of rain and hail. The aftermath left much of N. 2nd E., where the storm water improvements have not yet been made, underwater and flooded the cross streets at 2nd and 5th as well. While this street and cross streets struggled, the storm water was no problem on N. Main St. where the City already installed the updated system during the Phase 1 project. This storm perfectly illustrated why storm water management has been a priority with the downtown revitalization project and how well the system works once installed.



The May 8th storm that came through southwest Idaho left significant standing water in downtown Mountain Home. The storm water work planned for Phase 2 of the downtown plan will alleviate the standing water from the current outdated bubble up system.

Phase 2 engineering was completed and finalized with Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) May 8th. With the plan set finalized, Guho is now able to start bidding for subcontractors. They will spend the remainder of the month working those bids and preparing the Guaranteed Max Price (GMP) that will be presented to City Council and the Mayor for final approval at the Council meeting on Monday,

June 8, 2020. **Once approved, construction will begin!**

We're bringing back the core Guho Team who were exceptional to work with on Phase 1 of the project. Rob Cloninger will be back as the Senior Superintendent and there is a new team member this time as well, Brett Smith. They will be the boots on the ground and we will be getting their contact information out to businesses if they have any concerns.

Construction will begin early to mid-June and is expected to continue through early fall. Construction will start on N. 2nd E. near Jackson St and will conclude by 5th St. The traffic control plan will include bringing traffic down to one lane and will impact one to one and a half blocks at a time. This will temporarily close parking on the right side of the street while that one block is impacted. The closures will be mostly during the beginning of the project but they will open up more once the storm drain system is in place.

The City and Guho understand the stress our local businesses have been under with the COVID-19 Stay at Home order. While we cannot modify our timeline due to City and ITD budget and timing restraints, we will remain flexible and work with businesses as much as possible. Guho's boots on the ground team is extremely focused on downtown businesses and outreach and will be providing week by week construction schedules to the downtown businesses to keep them informed and help them plan ahead. As always, the Economic Development office and Rich Urquidi, Public Works Director, are here to support our local businesses and ease the way as well.

Check out the graphic below of our high level timeline. As the schedule is firmed up we will update the timeline to better reflect the construction sequence and timing.

DOWNTOWN CONSTRUCTION PHASE 2 TIMELINE



SUBCONTRACTOR BIDDING

May 7-Ongoing: Guho Corp., the contractor selected for Phase 1 (N. Main St.) of the downtown revitalization won the contract for Phase 2 and 3 as well. ITD approved the final plan set for Phase 2 on May 7th. Guho has begun bidding subcontractors.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION PUBLIC MEETING

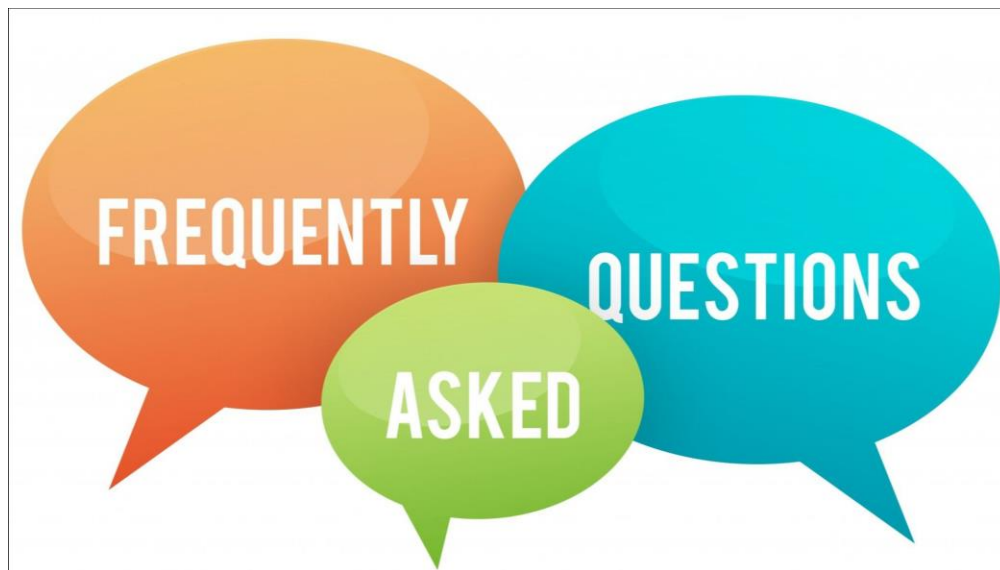
June 3rd @ 6 pm: The Pre-construction Public Meeting is scheduled for June 3rd at 6 pm. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting will be held online via Zoom. Questions will still be able to be asked and the meeting will be recorded and shared afterwards.



GUHO BUSINESS VISITS

May 28th & 29th: The Guho team will be coming out and meeting with businesses along N. 2nd E.





Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will there be parking on the left side of N. 2nd E.?**
 - The majority of parking on the left side of N. 2nd E. will be removed to provide a through lane of traffic in that corridor per ITD requirements. However, ITD approved three strategically-placed parking spots to remain. There will be one spot located in front of Mountain Home Printing, one in front of the old Beall's building and one in front of Idaho Youth Ranch.
- **Will we lose parking on the right side of N. 2nd E.?**
 - When construction is complete, parking will remain on the right side of N. 2nd E. However, during construction there will be interruptions to the availability of parking while work is being done. Guho plans to only impact one block at a time. As construction on that block is completed, parking will reopen. Guho will notify businesses weekly of any expected changes. Signage showing where available parking is located will be placed out front to help direct customers.

- **Will there be parking restrictions on the cross streets downtown?**
 - There will be no parking restrictions on the cross streets during construction.
 - **Will the traffic patterns on the cross streets downtown change (become one-way streets)?**
 - No, the traffic patterns on the cross streets downtown will remain the same. They will not become one way streets.
 - **How will Air Force Appreciation Day be accommodated?**
 - The City and Guho are in close contact with the Air Force Appreciation Day Committee. As more information becomes available we will update everyone. Guho and the City understand the importance of this iconic Mountain Home event.
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Support During Construction

We understand that construction is difficult and in order to support our local businesses impacted by the construction the Economic Development office is working with several agencies to provide resources and support. We will also be posting tips and tricks for businesses to prepare for and thrive during construction.

As we did with the businesses on N. Main St. during the first phase of construction, we will be offering business spotlights of the businesses on N. 2nd E. If you would like to be a business spotlighted, please let us know and we will get you scheduled. This is a great way to let customers know you are still open during construction and share details about your business or any specials, events, etc. you might be offering during construction.

We had planned to bring outside agency resources to the table to assist businesses, such as support from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) leading up to construction starting. Our goal was to walk downtown with the SBA in April to visit with small business owners and managers. With the COVID-19 restrictions and unexpected workload placed on the SBA, we have had to adjust our plan. At this time, SBA is not able to walk with us in person but we plan to reschedule as soon as possible. We hope that soon the SBDC may be able to start meeting with businesses in person again each month (on the 3rd Thursday of the month). However, until they are able to do so, they have committed to providing support via telephone or video conferencing. If businesses would like to schedule an appointment to discuss specific issues they may be facing or to plan ahead for construction impacts the Mountain Home Economic Development Office or Mountain Home Chamber can help get you scheduled FREE of charge. We are also able to provide free counseling through the Women's Business Center and SCORE.

The Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce is also a great resource and partner who is ready and willing to help businesses. If you would like to schedule a visit with any of these agencies please contact Economic Development at 208-587-2173 or mhed@mountain-home.us.



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