



**Rodney Street Project, Phase II 9th to Helena Ave.
Public Questions and Answers Through April 16, 2021**

1. Rodney has a very long boulevard tree planting, a variety of trees, not just Green Ash. This theme is a must to keep the integrity of the neighborhood. To take a theme from our neighbors to the west Ewing neighborhood has the eloquent streetlights. They are functional and classic. We don't need to light up the world. Claiming traffic with bump outs have been proven to slow traffic. We do have a history of speeding vehicles.
 - a. Boulevard trees will be removed as necessary based on construction logistics and an evaluation of the health of the trees. The plan that the City made for phase 1 where the boulevard gets wider between 7th and 9th was alternating "Lewis and Clark" Prairie Expedition Elm and Bur oak. Plantings nearest a corner should be Elms to minimize any potential visual obstruction. The City Arborist would like to keep with this theme through phase 2 in the wider boulevards. The City Arborist will follow up with a list of trees that will 100% need to be removed and some specification as to how we can evaluate them for damage during construction.
 - b. Bulb-out may be incorporated into the project based on effectiveness, need and desire. The City will present a proposal in the Preliminary Design presentation at the next public meeting.
2. We are dubious about bulb outs to slow traffic and/or to help pedestrian crossings. Larger wheelbase vehicles (garbage trucks, plows, school buses) may be impeded in their turn radii; if the bulb outs are mountable to meet that issue, they would not provide a respite for pedestrians and would allow people to park on them for sporting events and/or store snow on them. Thanks for the great presentation. P.S. the signs that show how fast you're going (like the one at the school) seem to be great correctives.
 - a. We are evaluating use of bulb-outs based on effectiveness, need and desire. The City will present a proposal in the Preliminary Design presentation at the next public meeting.
3. Is the Rodney St. Project available to review after 7:00p on 4/14/21?
 - a. Preliminary Rodney Street Phase II Design Plans will be available for the second public meeting. Its date is not yet set.
4. At the Rodney Street open house on 14 April, I believe it was stated that we could request the list of approved trees. If that is correct, is this the right place to request that list?
 - a. The City Arborist will follow up with a list of trees and we will forward as soon as I receive it.
5. I had two items of feedback on the Rodney Street open that took place on 14 April. The open house was truly excellent. It provided transparency in a way that helps set expectations and gives the residents a real opportunity to provide feedback. I appreciate both the open house and how well it was executed. I wanted to specifically give a huge kudos to the person who facilitated the zoom meeting (my apologies I forgot your name). In my job I have been using Zoom (and similar tools) for remote meetings extensively for the past six years. The skills of the facilitator are as good as I have seen and truly made a difference to the effectiveness of the meeting.
 - a. Thank you, we appreciate the feedback.
6. I was most interested in the comments, will you report on reactions & comments/questions? If so, I would be interested in that information.
 - a. Yes. We have posted the comments and responses on the project website and in this document.



7. Thanks for the opportunity to provide comment regarding Phase 2 of the Rodney Street reconstruction project and for your commitment to keeping residents informed and involved in the planning process. We're excited that the entire street will be improved over the next couple of years.
 - a. Thank you, we appreciate the feedback.
8. We want to strongly state our opposition to installing bulb-outs at any intersection. The potential problems far outweigh any benefits that the bulb-outs might create in terms of slowing traffic or improving pedestrian safety.
 - a. We are evaluating use of bulb-outs based on effectiveness, need and desire. The City will present a proposal in the Preliminary Design presentation at the next public meeting.
9. Having lived on Rodney Street for 33 years, we've seen how narrow the street becomes during the winter months, when snowplows leave a berm that stretches 18 inches or more from the curb into the street, on each side of the street. We also know how difficult it is for two cars to navigate past each other when large vehicles are parked on the street at any time during the year. And living near the corner of 9th and Rodney, we've had ample experience with how difficult it is to turn onto 9th Avenue during both the warm and cold months of the year. All year long, cars park on both sides of 9th Avenue right near the intersection, making for some tight squeezes for two-way traffic. During the winter, when berms from snowplows block 9th Avenue, it's treacherous to make a turn from Rodney onto 9th. Bulb-outs would create massive problems during the winter months.
 - a. We are evaluating use of bulb-outs based on effectiveness, need and desire. The City will present a proposal in the Preliminary Design presentation at the next public meeting.
10. We hope the city will abandon plans for bulb-outs at any of the intersections on Rodney Street. If you do move forward with those plans, we hope that you'll take a very close look at the parking issues and traffic patterns on 9th Avenue (which is a pretty highly used street) and that you won't include a bulb-out at that intersection.
 - a. Bulb-out may be incorporated into the project based on effectiveness, need and desire. The City will present a proposal in the Preliminary Design presentation at the next public meeting.
11. We also don't think that an improved street surface will lead to higher vehicle speeds if traffic calming measures aren't put in place. We've observed traffic on the street for decades -- while living both south and north of 11th Avenue -- and don't think the street will become more heavily traveled or that drivers will suddenly become reckless just because there are fewer potholes and patches. Many years ago, the construction of Cruse Avenue led to a noticeable reduction in traffic on Rodney Street. And a couple blocks are subject to a 15-mile-an-hour speed limit when schools in session. Rodney Street simply is not a high-traffic or high-speed street.
 - a. Thank you, we appreciate the feedback.
12. Thanks again for involving the public and taking our concerns into consideration.
 - a. Thank you, we appreciate the feedback.

Questions and Answers During the Public Open House on April 14, 2021

13. What is the traffic impact going to be for both through traffic and local residents?
 - a. Project will be staged to maintain access. There may be detour routes but those aren't yet known. We may utilize alleys for residents.
14. What is the new width of the road going to be? Will it be the same?
 - a. Yes, the road width will remain the same.
15. What is the process for deciding on using bulb outs? Snow removal is difficult with them in place.



- a. We'll issue a technical memo, layout the pros and cons, and it will include snow removal coordination. We are working with the City to determine their feasibility.
 - b. Matt Culpo (City of Helena): We want the input from the public on where they can go and want to make sure we talk to the adjacent property owners.
16. There are markings on the ground showing utilities. Where these are intersecting with trees, does that mean those trees will be removed?
 - a. Not exactly. We are not sure yet on which trees will be removed.
17. Is there a larger traffic study being conducted that might affect other traffic flows? Would those other studies be directing traffic down Rodney St?
 - a. We are not aware of any other traffic studies.
18. What about irrigation systems such as underground sprinklers that may be encroaching on the ROW. What will happen to them?
 - a. Any existing irrigation systems that become damaged due to construction that are within the ROW will be replaced.
19. How are you determining which sidewalks to replace or not? What is that process?
 - a. All sidewalks will likely be replaced. All water and sewer services will also be replaced to property lines.
20. Are the trees going to be replaced with small landscaping-type trees? These types tend to stay small and never grow very large.
 - a. New trees will be 1-2" in trunk diameter depending on availability.
21. Whose responsibility is it to care for the trees?
 - a. The contractor will have a 1-year warranty on the trees. If they die during that time, the contractor will replace them. After the warranty period, the adjacent landowners or resident is responsible for maintaining the trees. The City can work with homeowners if they need assistance getting the trees established.
22. When will you know what trees will be removed?
 - a. Most likely before the next public open house. The owners will receive a notice.
23. Will there be any other roadway narrowing other than the bulb outs?
 - a. No, there will not be.
24. I suspect with a new street that cars will be going faster. Currently drivers are only going slow because of the poor pavement.
 - a. The speed limit will remain at 25 mph. Bulb outs can help keep drivers driving at the correct speed.
25. Can I get a copy of this open house presentation?
 - a. Due to logistics, a recording is not available for this meeting.
26. This area is a walkable area and I see people speeding if the road is improved. It would be helpful to provide the police or other traffic control. Plowing rules need to be enforced.
 - a. We will coordinate with the City on snow removal process for the new road.
27. When will the new trees be presented?
 - a. The City Arborist will follow up with a list of trees and we will forward as soon as I receive it.
28. When is the next meeting?
 - a. We are not sure yet.
29. Are two buses going to be able to pass where there are bulb outs?
 - a. Yes, lane width will not change.
30. If parking is on one side, has the City considered what impact this will have on events such as those held at Vigilante Stadium?



- a. Existing parking will be maintained along Rodney.