



"Smart Streets" is an effort to improve the role of streets within South Bend. Projects within this initiative utilize the "Complete Streets" philosophy which advocates for the design of streets to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.



Western Avenue Street Improvements Fact Sheet

Project Purpose

The City of South Bend is changing Western Avenue between William and Sheridan Streets into a street that is safer and creates an environment more conducive to business and residential investment.

The changes to travel lane striping and related streetscape improvements will maintain a steady flow of traffic at calmer speeds. Motorist, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety will be improved, while businesses will have better visibility and the benefit of convenient, publicly provided on-street parking. The proposed lane and streetscape changes will make the area more attractive to residents on or near Western Avenue.

The improvements are one step in the implementation of the *West Side Main Streets Plan*, the plan for Lincolnway West and Western Avenue completed in 2014. During the planning process, businesses and residents stated they wanted a more walkable environment, which this project will help create.

Project Scope

The lane striping on Western Avenue will be revised so that this entire stretch of street clearly operates as one lane in each direction with a left-turn lane. Some sidewalk replacements may be completed. As space and demand dictates, on-street parking, bicycle facilities, and street trees will be added. These changes are summarized in the table on the reverse.

Western Avenue carries about 10,000 to 16,000 vehicles per day, depending on the segment. Across the country, similar three-lane reconfigurations have been successfully implemented on streets carrying up to 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles per day. A traffic analysis completed for this project confirms that intersections along Western Avenue will maintain acceptable levels of service with the lane changes; that is, vehicles will be able to move through intersections without significant delay.

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Western Segment (Address Numbers)	Travel Lane Changes	On-Street Parking	Bicycle Facilities
William - Scott (500 - 699)	Conversion to 3 lanes	Both sides	Shared-lane marking (sharrow)
Scott - Cherry (700 - 1499)	Maintain 3 lanes	Both sides	Shared-lane marking (sharrow)
Cherry - Olive (1500 - 2399)	Conversion from 4 lanes to 3 lanes	South side only	Bike lanes
Olive - Kentucky (2400 - 3199)	Conversion to 3 lanes	Both sides	Shared-lane marking (sharrow)
Kentucky - Sheridan (3200 - 3999)	Conversion to 3 lanes	South side only	Westbound bike lane; eastbound shared-lane marking (sharrow)

Also, the three-block section of Western Avenue between Dundee Street and Bendix Drive will receive further streetscape improvements. The curbs, sidewalks, driveway approaches, and street pavement will be replaced. Street trees, decorative lighting, and bus shelters will be installed. Pedestrian bumpouts will be added at the corners.

Maintenance of Traffic & Property Access

The section of Western Avenue between Dundee Street and Bendix Drive will be partially or fully closed at times during construction. The rest of Western Avenue will generally remain open to traffic throughout the project, and work will be completed in phases. Every effort will be made to minimize interruption to property access for residents, customers, employees, and deliveries.

Schedule

Contractor bids for these improvements will be opened in June. Work on Western Avenue is anticipated to begin in early July and be completed by late October. All dates are subject to change.

Tree Maintenance

Pending available funding, the City may provide professional tree maintenance during the first three years after planting, the critical period of establishment and growth. This maintenance would include watering, fertilizing, and pruning.

Additional Information

For additional information or project updates, contact the City of South Bend Department of Community Investment at (574) 235-5843 or visit www.southbendin.gov/corridors.