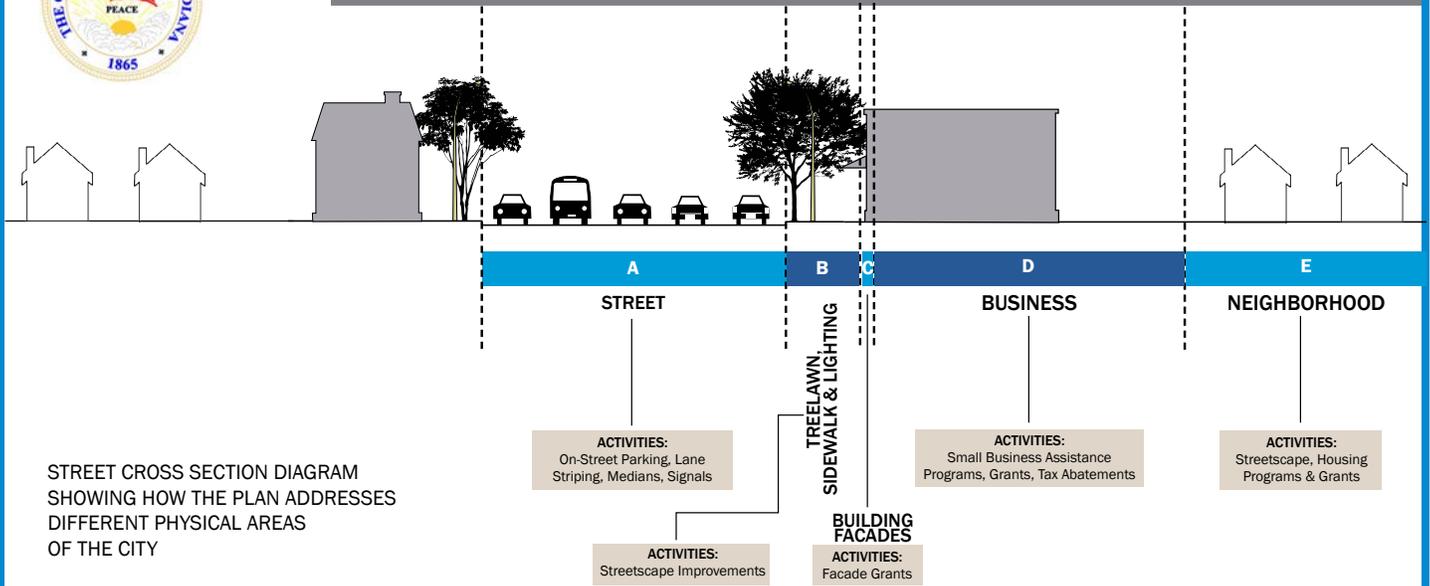




WEST SIDE MAIN STREETS PLAN

Lincolnway West - Western Avenue



PLAN OUTLINE & 2015 PRIORITIES

The West Side Main Streets Revitalization Plan serves as a guide to business and property owners, residents, the City of South Bend, and others to improve the quality of life for all who live and work along Lincolnway West and Western Avenue. The Plan's vision was developed through a year-long process, guided by an Advisory Committee comprised of 12 community and business leaders along with Councilmembers Karen White and Tim Scott. The Plan was approved by the South Bend Common Council in December 2014. As a long-term vision, the Plan is an open, living document that is intended to be updated with the outreach that will occur with any of its specific projects.

Through the public process, community feedback prioritized the following Plan strategies:

- The corridors must focus uses and create destinations,
- The streets themselves must be transformed into walkable neighborhood connectors,
- The residential neighborhoods must be revitalized, and
- The corridors and adjoining neighborhoods must attract new residents, new businesses, and new patrons.

Following are projects to occur in 2015 to begin implementation of the plan:

1. LINCOLNWAY WEST INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of South Bend awarded a \$1.5 million project in fall 2014 to improve the entire stretch of Lincolnway West from William Street to Maplewood Avenue. Sections of broken sidewalk will be replaced, and new street trees will be added. The street will be resurfaced, and traffic signals will be improved. The lane striping will be changed from four lanes (two lanes in each direction) to three lanes (one lane in each direction with a left-turn lane). As space and demand dictates, on-street parking and bike lanes will be added. Construction is to occur in spring 2015.

WEST SIDE MAIN STREETS PLAN (continued)

2. WESTERN AVENUE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

A full streetscape project is planned for the three blocks of Western Avenue between Dundee Street and Bendix Drive. Curb, sidewalk, and driveway approaches will be replaced, and the street paving will be improved. Pedestrian-scale lighting, trees, and other improvements will be added. Construction is expected in summer-fall 2015.

The City of South Bend also plans for a broader street improvement project for the stretch of Western Avenue from William Street to Sheridan Street. To support neighborhood and business investment, this portion of Western Avenue will be marked as three lanes (one lane in each direction with a left-turn lane). Across the country, similar three-lane striping has been successfully used on streets carrying up to 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles per day; depending on the segment, Western Avenue carries about 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day. A traffic analysis confirms that this lane arrangement will not create any unreasonable traffic delay. As space and demand dictates, street trees, on-street parking, and bike lanes are proposed for portions of Western Avenue. Traffic signal timing will also be improved. Construction is to occur in summer-fall 2015.

3. BUS SHELTERS

Installation of at least five new bus shelters is proposed for Lincolnway West and Western Avenue. Additionally, Transpo will begin installing new designated bus stop signs throughout the city. Users will now be asked to board the bus at designated stops.

4. MATCHING GRANTS

In partnership with the City of South Bend, the Urban Enterprise Association is offering a matching grant program that provides funding for up to 50% of the cost of qualifying exterior improvements to commercial, mixed use, and industrial buildings on Lincolnway West and Western Avenue. The maximum grant amount is \$25,000.

5. VACANT TO VALUE GRANT

In partnership with the City of South Bend, the Urban Enterprise Association is accepting applications for a "Vacant to Value" Repair Matching Grant Program that provides up to \$10,000 to repair vacant and abandoned properties. The grants, paid on a reimbursement basis, must be used to address any and all code enforcement violations. Recipients must also agree to own and reside in the house, as their primary residence, for at least three years.

6. AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The City of South Bend is establishing an Ambassador Program, similar to the one already operating downtown, for portions of the corridors. A contractor will be hired to provide cleaning, landscaping, and greeting services in the areas near Lincolnway West and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and near Western Avenue and Kaley Street beginning in spring 2015.

6/9/15