



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose of The Heights Streetscape Plan project?

A: The Heights Streetscape Plan will identify ways to improve 12th and 13th Streets through the Heights for people who drive, walk, bike, take the bus, and shop at local businesses. The plan will include recommendations for improvements to 12th and 13th Streets and the intersections and the streets between May Street and Belmont Avenue.

Q: Is the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) involved in the project?

A: 12th and 13th Streets are part of the state highway system (OR-281). ODOT owns the public right-of-way and maintains the roadway, crosswalks, and curb ramps along OR-281; the city maintains the sidewalks. ODOT has been involved in the planning process. Future projects resulting from this planning process will need to be permitted by ODOT.

Q: How much will future street and intersections improvements cost to build and how will it be paid for?

A: The estimated cost to design and construct street improvements will be identified after a preferred design is developed. The cost to reconstruct all of the streets and intersections in the study area will exceed \$25 million dollars.

The City expects improvements will be paid for by a combination of funding sources, including the Heights Urban Renewal District, City funds for street and utilities, ODOT funds for maintaining the roadway and curb ramps, and grant funding.

Q: When will the Plan be completed and how soon will construction begin?

A: The preferred design and a street improvement implementation plan will be developed during the next phase of the project (Phase 3). Phase 3 will be completed in Fall 2022. There is no timeline for constructing future street improvements.

Q: When will crosswalks be improved to help people cross 12th and 13th Streets?

A: After a preferred design has been identified, the city will work with ODOT to move high priority projects forward. The exact timing of crosswalk improvements is dependent on many factors, including funding availability and logical sequencing with other Heights capital projects. The Plan will give the city confidence that crosswalk improvements will be designed to work with the city's long-term plans for the Heights.



Q: Will changes to the street impact how long it takes to drive through the Heights?

A: It depends. Each of the preliminary concepts affect travel times in different ways, but generally traffic will drive slower. The goal of the Plan is to balance vehicle travel with comfort and safety of people walking and biking. The increase in travel time will depend on the final design chosen.

Q: Will the plan change parking in the Heights?

A: Each of the three preliminary design concepts and the City’s current adopted Transportation System Plan (2011) will alter on-street parking along 12th and 13th Streets between May Street and Belmont Avenue. Parking on side streets may be redesigned to maximize usage.

A parking study identified 304 on-street parking stalls within the Heights District, which includes on-street parking within one block of 12th and 13th Streets, and 410 off-street parking stalls on privately owned properties.

Changes to 12th and 13th Streets presented in the design concepts reduces on-street parking in the Heights as summarized below. The project is not proposing changes to off-street parking on privately owned properties.

Design Title	Approximate number of on-street District Parking Spaces within one block of 12 th and 13 th Streets
Current Configuration	304
2011 Adopted Transportation System Plan	220 (28% reduction)
Design Concept #1	230 (24% reduction)
Design Concept #2	275 (10% reduction)
Design Concept #3	245 (20% reduction)

Q: Will the city place overhead electrical wires underground?

A: The Plan will include considerations for replacing existing public utilities that need to be replaced as well as opportunities for undergrounding overhead electrical wires.

Q: How can I stay involved in the Plan?

A: The project website includes a place to leave your name, email, and any comments you have. If you leave your name and email address, we will add you to the future email distributions.