



Downtown Streetscape Improvements Project Talking Points

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CITY OF STUART, 121 SW FLAGLER AVENUE, STUART, FLORIDA 34994
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

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For frequent updates and other information please visit: www.cityofstuart.us

First: What you need to know

The Downtown Stuart Streetscape Improvement Project is a four-month, \$500,000 project that will update Downtown Stuart's primary streets for the first time since the 1980's. It is intended to correct problems with drainage and pavement damage caused by tree roots. It will also replace damaged and dying trees with fresh landscaping, increase parking on Flagler Avenue, and create a raised crosswalk and seating area on Osceola Street. The two streets will also be resurfaced and road and parking striping will be repainted. The project was developed by the City of Stuart Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) with community input from area businesses and local residents.

What is the goal of the project?

The project is designed to enhance the aesthetic quality of the historic downtown area while correcting problems with drainage and pavement damage caused by tree roots. It will also replace damaged and dying trees with fresh landscaping, increase parking on Flagler Avenue, and create a raised crosswalk and seating area on Osceola Street. The two streets will also be resurfaced and road and parking striping will be repainted. The City chose to initiate construction during the quiet, summer season as a means of mitigating impacts to businesses.

Why is the work necessary?

In 2009, the City contacted a certified arborist and local tree service for expert opinions on the conditions of the Laurel Oak trees downtown. The result of their analysis provided that the trees were at the end of their life expectancy (20-25 years) and in need of replacing. Of 39 trees originally planted by the City, only 29 remained as the City had removed 10 that had died. The root systems of the existing trees have also caused structural damage to curbs, sidewalks, and irrigation systems. As a result of these impacts, the City will be replacing the existing Laurel Oaks, while simultaneously improving the sidewalks and crosswalks.

What is the projects schedule?

The contractor, West Construction, is authorized to work from dawn to dusk, to keep the construction schedule on track. Construction runs from May 21 to August 31, but the entire area will not be under construction all at once.

Work will be completed this summer in four (4) phases:

- ❖ Phase 1 South (Adjacent to railroad tracks) - May 21, 2018 - June 17, 2018
- ❖ Phase 1 North (City Hall area) - June 18, 2018 - June 29, 2018
- ❖ Phase 2 (Osceola Street) - July 9, 2018 - August 19, 2018
- ❖ Phase 3 (Resurfacing and Restriping) - August 20, 2018 - August 24, 2018
- ❖ Phase 4 (Crosswalks) - August 27, 2018 - August 31, 2018

How will construction impact downtown?

During phase 1, there will be minor impacts to parking along Flagler Avenue intermittently, as needed for construction. Throughout phase 2, SE Osceola Street will be closed to street traffic and parking, but the sidewalks will remain open with marginal, intermittent impact to pedestrian navigation. Additional parking and lane closures may occur during the latter phases of construction as needed, but businesses will remain open throughout construction.

Will the trees be replaced?

Although the existing Laurel Oaks have reached their life expectancy, the City will be introducing Queen Crape Myrtle in each existing spot. A total of 39 Queen Crape Myrtle's will be planted and installed. These trees are often referred to as the "Pride of India" and grow up to 19 feet within 5 years. They are easily identified by their pink or purplish blossoms.

Where to go for more information

- ❖ For City of Stuart news and information please visit: <http://cityofstuart.us/>
- ❖ For more information on the DBA and the Downtown Streetscape Project, please visit: <http://www.historicdowntownstuart.com/>