



Washington Corridor Streetscape Project

Frequently Asked Questions

History of the Washington Corridor Streetscape Project

How did the project get started?

In 2003, IDO partnered with many Irvington organizations to develop a vision and streetscape plan as a key step to revitalize the central commercial district in Historic Irvington.

What are the main goals of the project?

There are three main goals of the Streetscape project:

- To create a sense of place for Irvington residents and a destination for the City and region;
- To increase the quality of residential life along and around Washington Street; and
- To enhance the economic vitality of Irvington for current and prospective businesses.

How has the project been funded?

- Spring 2003 - IDO received \$25,000 grant from United Water Inc. to prepare an application for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Transportation Enhancement (TE) program
- September 2004 - Irvington awarded \$500,000 Federal TE grant.
- September 2005 - Irvington awarded an additional \$516,936 in Federal TE funds.
- IDO had to raise 20% of the project from local foundations, businesses, and individuals to match the federal funds.

How much has been raised thus far?

Almost \$250,000 (of the \$300,000 goal) thanks to our local and corporate sponsors!

Who is involved in project management?

- The design team of LandStory (formerly Claire Bennett Associates or CBA); Butler, Fairman & Siefert; Second Globe; and James T. Kienle and Associates were retained to design the project in 2005.
- IDO is the sponsor of the project.
- The City's Department of Public Works is letting the project out to bid and will oversee the construction in consultation with IDO and the adjoining property owners.



Implementation of Washington Corridor Streetscape Project

What areas of Washington Street will be affected?

- Phase One is between Irvington Avenue and Bolton Avenue, to focus on the central commercial district in Historic Irvington between Ritter Avenue and Audubon Road.
- The overall vision of the project includes a two-mile stretch of Washington Street between Emerson Avenue on the west to Edmonson Avenue on the east.

When will it start?

- The project went out to bid in February 2012.
- The City's Board of Public Works awarded the project on April 11th to Schutt Lookabill Co., Inc.
- Construction should start in mid-May.

Why has it taken so long?

- It is normal for public works projects to take years of planning and design. You just don't usually hear about them until they ready to go.
- Similar projects in Indianapolis and around the state have taken as long or longer.
- There are three levels of government to coordinate the required tasks and responsibilities: federal, state, and local.

What are some examples of similar projects?

- Cumberland Streetscape Project
- Fountain Square Streetscape
- Beech Grove
- 38th Street/Maple Road Project
- Farmland, IN and Anderson, IN
- Downtown Joliet, Illinois <http://www.cityofjoliet.com/downtown.htm>

Construction Impacts

How will traffic be accommodated during construction?

- Traffic flow will be maintained on Washington Street.
- There will be a three-phase maintenance of traffic by first constructing one side of the street, then the other, then the median section.
- Audubon Rd. and Ritter Ave. will not be open to through traffic. Other cross streets will need to be closed periodically for construction at some intersections. Detours will be marked as needed.



Will there be increased traffic on residential streets?

We can't generally predict this, but because traffic flow on Washington Street will continue to be open east and west, traffic on residential streets is not likely to increase.

How long is the construction period expected to last?

The construction period should take about six months.

Will I be able to park along Washington Street during construction?

No. However, special entrances and exits will be marked.

What are my other parking alternatives?

- Parking lots behind businesses.
- Walking or biking to the district!

Will pedestrian traffic be affected?

There will be minor impacts on pedestrian traffic. Employing a block-by-block construction process for sidewalks will minimize the impact.

Outcomes/Benefits of the Project

What are the key design outcomes?

A key design outcome is the introduction of traffic calming features and managed traffic flow through

- Use of both planted and flush median areas
- Crosswalks with decorative pavements
- Landscaped buffers developed between street and sidewalk

These features also improve the overall appearance and attractiveness of the corridor, and contribute to a pedestrian-friendly business district.

How will traffic flow and business access be affected after construction?

- Proposed treatments will slow traffic by narrowing the feel of the streetscape with medians/plantings and by shortening the feel of the street with the proposed crosswalk treatments.
- Case studies indicate that medians improve traffic flow and reduce the number of traffic conflicts.



How will traffic flow and business access be affected after construction?

While some left turns from and onto Washington Street will be restricted, access to business parking areas will be accommodated by the median design.

Is the design safe and pedestrian-friendly?

YES, that is a major goal of the project, to be accomplished in part by:

- Crosswalks and enhanced intersection pavement at Ritter and Audubon
- Landscaped medians and improved separation between sidewalks and curb

All of this provides psychological effect to slow motorists down and increases physical pedestrian comfort level.

How does the project benefit me as a resident?

- This project is already bolstering community pride. We are bringing Irvington's essence back to Washington Street. A better place to work, live and enjoy!
- As the main artery *through* and gateway *to* Irvington, East Washington Street serves as the first impression to visitors, potential residents, and investors alike.
- Improvements to the streetscape will be another catalyst to continue current momentum supporting the business district that is rapidly improving to match the surrounding residential neighborhoods for which Irvington is known.

How will the project change my neighborhood?

The Washington Streetscape Plan will strengthen the 'heart' of Irvington by

- Enhancing its cultural image,
- Supporting a 'walkable' business district, and
- Supporting further investment in a once again up-and-coming neighborhood.

How will the project change my neighborhood?

- Irvington will have more places to eat, shop, and play because of this and other initiatives that support a place that people want to be.
- In the long-term, these community improvements likely will increase the values of surrounding properties



The Streetscape Project and Other Local Initiatives

Is the Streetscape project related to other initiatives in and around Irvington?

YES, the Streetscape project is coordinated with the following initiatives:

- Washington Street Corridor business development through LISC/FOCUS grants
- Economic Development Plan
- Neighborhood Plan
- Historic Irvington Preservation Plan
- Irvington Identity Initiative
- The Historic Preservation District/Preserve America
- Irvington Green Initiative
- Public Art Initiative

In addition, the Streetscape will fit with other streetscape projects (east Washington past I-465, Cumberland, Emerson Ave) and coordinate with the **Pennsy Trail** development.

Be Involved and Stay Informed!

How can I help?

Become a member of IDO or make a Streetscape donation: Go to www.irvingtondevelopment.org, or contact IDO at 317-260-0669.

Participate in our Irvington renaissance. Promote Irvington initiatives to all of your friends and contacts.

For More Information
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