

LAWRENCE & TYLER STREET PROJECT UPDATE: BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE UPTOWN PORT TOWNSEND

Lawrence Street Construction Begins September 30 through mid-December

September 23, 2024

Greetings Uptown Households and/or Business Owners,

You are receiving this project notification letter as a property and/or business owner within 300 feet of the project area for Lawrence and Tyler Street construction in the Uptown Business District. Please read this letter carefully as it contains pertinent information about the project and impacts to pedestrian and vehicle use along the project corridor, and please share this letter with anyone you know who may be interested. Visit the project webpage for updates as timelines may shift with weather and holiday schedules. Your project contact is Laura Parsons, P.E., lp Parsons@cityofpt.us, (360) 774-3017.



cityofpt.us/engagept/page/lawrence-tyler-streets-project

Project Overview

The city is addressing Uptown accessibility issues through two grant-funded improvement projects. In Phase 1, the Lawrence Street Pedestrian Improvements Project focuses on sidewalk and ramp improvements, in response to requests from the community, Jefferson County Farmers Markets (JCFM) and Disability Awareness Starts Here! (DASH). These accessibility improvements are necessary as the first step to eventually repaving Lawrence from Monroe Street to the Public Library. The City is pursuing additional grants to reconstruct pavement on Lawrence Street and is currently assessing the sewer lines under the street in preparation for planning purposes.

Phase 1 is planned for construction through the remainder of this year and Phase 2 will begin next spring. The work that is in process now through mid-December includes sidewalk demolition and replacement, and construction of new ramps and intersection concrete bulb-outs that are ADA-compliant. The project will also include a new bus stop, rain gardens, pavement re-striping for bike lanes, tree removal and tree planting.

Phase 1 Project Information:

- Smoke and dye testing will be conducted in early October to assess sewer locations along Lawrence Street. Residents and visitors may see or smell smoke emanating from sewer access points. This type of testing is commonly used to identify sewer lines.
- Lawrence Street work between Harrison and Tyler Streets will primarily focus on installing bulbouts (sidewalk extensions) at the street corners. The bulbouts are a proven way to make walking safer when crossing the street and to help slow down cars. The bulbouts will incorporate rain gardens and room for tree planting.



- Three hornbeam trees will be removed on Lawrence where tree roots are damaging side sewers and buckling the sidewalk. The sidewalk will be replaced in this area and thirteen new trees of species that are more appropriate for sidewalk infrastructure will be planted along the corridor.
- A new bus stop to support those experiencing disabilities and other transit riders will be installed at the Northwest corner of Lawrence Street near Tyler. Two parking stalls will be eliminated to support this new bus stop as requested by Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH). All other bus stops in the area will remain and bus stops will not be closed during the project period.
- Tyler Street will also receive sidewalk repairs between Lawrence and Clay Streets on the west side of the street. Tree roots have caused tripping hazards along the sidewalk in front of the businesses. Corner ramps in this section will also be replaced to facilitate safe passage for those using assistive devices like wheelchairs and walkers.

Phase 2: Project Continuation in 2025

- Repave Tyler Street between Lawrence and Jefferson Streets. The pavement is quickly deteriorating and this is an opportunity to prevent complete pavement failure which is costly to address.
- The City Council approved head out (back in) angled parking on Tyler Street to replace the angled parking currently present. Head out parking is much safer for bikes using this busy section of Uptown. There is some helpful information in the Council consideration during the April 1st and April 15th business meetings. These meetings can be viewed on the City's website at <https://cityofpt.us/citycouncil/page/agendasminutesvideos>.
- This project will also replace up to two regular parking stalls with handicap marked stalls on Tyler Street.

Project Schedule & Construction Notices

Some work along Tyler Street started this summer by City and PUD crews or contractors. That work is ongoing. As the Lawrence & Tyler Street sidewalk improvements begin, please note:

- Work hours will be between 7:00AM and 6:00PM.
- Equipment will be staged in parking stalls adjacent to where work is occurring.
- There will be sidewalk closures along the side of the street where work is occurring (south side of Lawrence will be completed first – the side closest to Downtown), and the opposite side will remain open for pedestrians. Safety in a high-traffic area like Uptown is of the utmost importance – businesses will remain open and accessible wherever possible with possible temporary closures for safety.
- In the first week of the project, there will be sawcutting of asphalt and concrete as well as removal of three Hornbeam trees between Polk and Tyler.
- It is expected that the road will remain open for the entirety of the project. Traffic will be guided by flaggers when necessary.

Our Partners

This project was made successful through support of PT Main Street, Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH), the Jefferson County Farmers Market, Local 2020 Transportation Lab, and Jefferson County Transit. These partners will continue to help get the word out, along with our City communications.

We understand that construction has impacts to businesses and residents and we ask for your patience, grace, and support this year as we make Uptown more inclusive to all users. The webpage above has additional information along with visuals. Please refer to this website and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your support in improving access to our community resources!

