

Comments/questions from Yakima City Council listening session on August 30th, 2018 **North 1st Street Revitalization Project**

(Answers shown in italics)

Economic development:

- Commercial access on North First Street – Roadrunner – *City staff met with Roadrunner owner after the session to discuss design details.*
- Incentivizing property ownership/business? - *Infrastructure development is the key.*
- Review project objectives - Moving goods/people or facilitating friendly neighborhood environment? Does it aim to enhance aesthetics or flow of traffic? – *The project both facilitates better movement of goods and people (traffic flow) and improves the neighborhood environment (aesthetics).*

Project construction, maintenance:

- Is there a maintenance plan? - *Project designed to require the least costs to maintain.*
- Design restrictions on private property? - *No, not requiring a planting plan.*
- Why not stipulate design standards? - *Legal issues with private property rights...however city is happy to work with neighborhoods wanting to pursue design standards.*
- Impacts on other City revenue streams? – *No. Rate increases are not anticipated.*
- Plans set in stone? - *No, but they need to be finalized by November.*
- Why are water/wastewater reserve funds being used? Are they being used to retire debt? Is there a plan to pay the funds back? - *A key part of the project is about improving utility infrastructure. Utility reserve funds are being used for utility improvements. The City will not be borrowing money for utility infrastructure improvements.*
- What was promised? Contingencies, are they contractual or vague? - *State and federal money is earmarked for Phase 1 of the project, but there are some time constraints attached to that funding. Phase 1 is fully funded, which is why it will be constructed first.*
- How many utilities are cooperating? – *All utilities will all be offered opportunities to install when trenches are opened. All utilities are being encouraged to take advantage of that opportunity.*
- What is the cost of removing power poles, cost to property owners? - *Poles will be moved back from their current position, but won't be removed. Utilities and the City will share the cost of moving the poles. Property owners will not bear any cost of moving the poles.*
- Are fiber optics available on North 1st Street? - *Yes.*
- Will there be empty conduit to facilitate utility installation? - *Yes.*
- Artwork at entrances to the project? - *That hasn't been discussed.*

Public safety/traffic:

- Police presence, police presence at night – crime/homelessness issues? - *YPD is recruiting new officers, using data-driven research, bicycle officers, etc. to improve its North 1st Street presence. Eyes on the street? - Police are working within legal constraints. It is not a crime to loiter on public property. Long term goal is to implement Neighborhood Resource Officers...similar to the School Resource Officer model.*

- Presence of Union Gospel Mission/plans to address issues? - *Again, loitering is not a crime on public property. Police are bringing in resource people to address mental health, chemical dependence, etc. issues. Union Gospel Mission staff wants to engage with people it serves throughout the day and with the neighborhood. UGM plans an outreach to help clean up neighboring properties.*
- Can the pedestrian light by UGM be moved to the north? - *Yes, it can be moved.*
- Crosswalk improvements/emphasis? - *No additional crosswalks are planned.*
- Bike lanes: Regular from I Street to R Street, and protected bike lanes south of I Street? *No, all bike lanes will be regular.*
- Will there be 4 lanes for the entire corridor? – *Yes.*
- Losing turn lanes? - *Generally, no. Only less-used turn lanes, based on traffic studies, will be removed.*
- Any problems with fire suppression/drinking water from the same pipe? - *No. It's not abnormal, and actually cost effective, to use the same pipe for drinking water and fire suppression.*
- What can property owners do to help address blight? – *Property owners can pay attention to outdoor lighting design, special paints can deter graffiti, ornaments are available for outside furniture to discourage loitering. Property owners are encouraged to connect with police and City code enforcement to learn how best to use design to deter blight.*
- How about a foot patrol on North 1st Street? - *Bike patrol have been proven to be more effective and cover more ground while getting officers out into the community.*
- What can we do besides calling 911 regarding homeless issues? – *Calling 911 is OK for reporting issues related to homelessness. All calls are recorded and, by receiving calls for that specific type of assistance, can help police determine if there is a trend in a specific area.*

Unaddressed comments/questions:

- How does North 1st Street revitalization fit in with the East West Corridor project?
- Possibility of forming Business Improvement District?
- Condemning properties/code enforcement.