

# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



## KENT STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE: DECEMBER 2022

### DESIGN: CITY TO RETAIN DIAGONAL PARKING ON KENT STREET

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The City and its engineers, Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V), held several public workshops in April/May 2022 to present the results of the downtown parking study and gather feedback from downtown businesses and other stakeholders. A consistent theme emerged that the reduction in parking spaces and switch to parallel parking on both sides would pose a hardship. The initial design concepts which eliminated the diagonal parking were based on compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Following the workshops, the City and F&V had direct conversations with MDOT staff to explore the implications of diagonal parking on funding. Historically, MDOT has mandated that buildings with steps be brought into compliance with the ADA. However, due to the historic nature of the facades and progress made with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), MDOT was able to report that the building entrances would not be required to be brought into compliance.

With the green light from MDOT, F&V developed a diagonal parking option, adjusting the angle of the diagonal parking from approximately 60 degrees currently to 45 degrees. This will provide additional width while mitigating safety issues associated with diagonal parking, with a much smaller reduction in parking spaces. On a parallel path, F&V began the environmental clearance process associated with MDOT/FHWA funding, which was anticipated to be a long lead item in the project.

The diagonal parking concept plans were submitted to the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in June 2022 (Note: It is important to recognize that the conceptual plans are only high-level renderings and not actual engineering design plans that are needed for bidding and construction). TAP is anticipated to be used to help fund sidewalk and other streetscape improvements – the City previously secured MDOT Small Urban Program funding for the road reconstruction work. The second round of TAP comments was received and addressed September 2022. Based on that meeting with MDOT, there is optimism about the City receiving TAP funding for the project.



# Portland

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City Council authorized F&V to begin formal design work on the project with the recommended diagonal parking option in October 2022. Preliminary design is anticipated to be completed in December/January and submitted to MDOT for review. Final design is anticipated to be completed in February/March 2023 and submitted to MDOT in April/May 2023.

The project is anticipated to be bid by MDOT in summer 2023. Construction was originally anticipated to begin in late summer 2023, however, current supply chain issues have resulted in a lead time of approximately 12 months for water main materials needed for the project. Those will be ordered soon after the bid letting so that construction can begin in early spring 2024 and be completed during the 2024 construction season.

Schedules for projects as large and complex as Kent Street are always a moving target. The City and F&V are working hard to navigate the current construction conditions and provide a quality end product that the residents and businesses can be proud of for many years to come.

I hope this information has been helpful. As always, my door is open and never hesitate to contact me with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

**S. Tutt Gorman**  
Portland City Manager