

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES – 2020 CITY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

CITY OF WOODBURN – FIRST STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

First Street serves the community as a primary street through the downtown providing businesses, residents, and visitors access to shops, restaurants and essential services. As a heavily traveled thoroughfare for downtown, First Street was in poor condition and in need of improvements. Based on community need, Woodburn's leadership made the First Street Improvements Project a priority.

The goal of the Project was to address the poor condition of the infrastructure on First Street in downtown Woodburn and to improve pedestrian safety and vehicular accessibility. The Project consisted of a complete six block improvement along First Street from Oak to Harrison Street. These improvements included street/infrastructure improvements, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and crosswalks, enhanced lighting, trees, intersection design, as well as other amenities such as seating, bike racks, and trash receptacles. In addition, the Project included improvements to the Second Street public parking lot (located behind the Post Office), re-surfacing, landscaping, increased lighting, security camera, in order to create a safer, more inviting area for public use. Lastly, but very significantly, the Project completed the resurfacing and improvements to the alleyways from Cleveland to Garfield Street, allowing for better business access.

The First Street Improvement Project was a priority and the City began project planning a number of years prior to moving forward. The City engaged the public early on in the process, requesting their assistance in selecting street trees, paver colors, intersection design, and other aspects of the planned improvements. A broad-based approach was taken for receiving feedback through hosting public meetings, conversation and presentations with business and civic groups, one-on-one outreach with business and property owners, and a community-wide survey. The City received a tremendous amount of feedback from the community and their contributions were incorporated into the final design and implementation of improvements. The most outstanding partners in the Project were the downtown business and property owners, operators, residents, and visitors. They persevered throughout this project, enduring demolition and construction of downtown, keeping shops and restaurants open and doing business. The City worked closely with the businesses in downtown to ensure that there was access to their shops and restaurants, as well as signage to inform the community that downtown was opened for business during construction.

The City took a unique approach to this Project by including the community early on requesting input on the design features of the project. Public feedback provided not only great insight, but an opportunity for the residents to be more invested in the improvements for downtown. With well-established relationship with the community, the City was able to communicate progress and provide construction updates informing the public of closures and detours.

Upon embarking on the First Street Improvement Project, the City was aware of three underground storage tanks located in the city right-of-way at a former gas station on First and Grant Street. The City worked with the property owner and received approval to access the privately owned property to remove the tanks. Removal commenced of the three tanks at the former gas station and as progress was made, contractors began demolition of First Street. As they began demolition on the southeast side of First and Grant Street (across the street from the gas station) contractors discovered three additional underground storage tanks, all of which were undocumented and required removal. The following day, contractors discovered two more undocumented tanks across First Street from the three found the previous day. Over the next few days as demolition continued south along First Street, two additional tanks were unearthed, all undocumented and all requiring removal. In less than two weeks, contractors removed ten (10) underground storage tanks along with more the 1020 tons of contaminated soil.

The following week on the Project, contractors began removing the sidewalk and curb across Hayes Street on First, only to discover yet another abandoned underground storage tank. Approximately three weeks after this discovery, there was another tank located at Arthur and First Street, bringing the total number of tanks removed to twelve (12) with the removal of approximately 1027 tons of contaminated soil.

During the course of this Project, city staff was met with some unforeseen challenges with the removal of twelve (12) underground storage tanks in a 3-block area, however, we had excellent partnerships with our state agencies including DEQ, Business Oregon, Governor's Regional Solution Team, as well as contractors including Pacific Excavation, CCS Industrial Services, and Evren Northwest.

The First Street Improvements Project was funded through Urban Renewal. The Project was a priority of the City Council and of significant importance to the community. First Street was in very poor condition and it projected an unpleasant look and feel of downtown. As the City began working on the redevelopment of First Street, businesses began seeing the potential of their properties and started making improvements, adding to the overall appeal and appearance to First Street and downtown Woodburn.

The First Street Improvements Project has completely transformed downtown Woodburn. Many communities throughout Oregon can benefit from the lessons our community learned when embarking on this Project. Engage your community in the planning process and encourage participation and investment early on. Additionally, be prepared for what might be underground once you begin digging and do not be deterred. Connect with DEQ and Business Oregon early on if tanks or contaminants are found. Both are excellent resources and can guide through the process.



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City of Woodburn

First Street Improvements Project



City of Woodburn First Street Improvement

Before Pictures










**City of Woodburn
First Street Improvement**

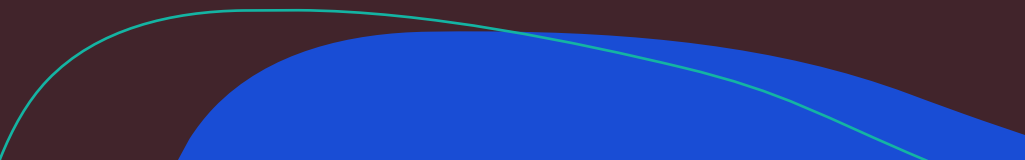
Concept Design







**City of Woodburn
First Street Improvement
During Construction**













**City of Woodburn
First Street Improvement**

**Underground Storage
Tank Removal**









**City of Woodburn
First Street Improvement**

**First Street Improvements
Complete**







