



SAINT CHARLES  
MISSOURI

## Question & Answer

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### First Capitol Enhancement Project

1. Why is First Capitol being renovated?
  - First Capitol Drive is one of Saint Charles' most significant arteries. Not unlike other commercial arterials across the country, First Capitol Drive is currently uninviting, uninspiring and vehicle-oriented. When constructed, the central purpose for these types of corridors was the movement of vehicle traffic from one point to another. There is a national and regional initiative to design and modify arterials to trigger economic and social benefits by centering communities around interesting, lively, and attractive streets that serve all modes of transportation. This design concept is called a *Great Street* and is a criterion that was met when applying for the federal TAP grant received for this project. This renovation also follows the Gateways of St. Charles Master Plan for infrastructure improvements reviewed by public input and adopted in 2012. It will reinvent the First Capitol Drive corridor creating a walkable, vibrant space that contributes lasting social and economic value to the City of Saint Charles.
2. Are the First Capitol Drive Enhancements parts of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Project?
  - The Enhancement of First Capitol Drive is part of the long range transportation plan adopted in 2015. The Goal of the Long Range Transportation Plan is to drive recommendations for future CIP submittals.
3. Will the driving lanes be narrowed?
  - The total driving surface will be 1 foot wider than currently exists resulting in lanes with the same width as those on the interstate. The renovation of First Capitol Drive is anticipated to accommodate the flow of all types of traffic over the next 20 years, without an expected need for expansion.
4. How will the flow of traffic be impacted on First Capitol Drive?
  - The flow of traffic will be improved.
  - The posted speed limit on First Capitol will remain the same.
  - The turning radii from First Capitol Drive will be improved to accommodate larger vehicles.
  - The addition of a bump out feature at the corner of Second Street and First Capitol Drive will slow traffic through the appearance of a narrower intersection.

- The project will include traffic calming streetscape treatments (similar to those along Fifth Street), improved signage, wayfinding and public parking areas.
  - Just as it presently exists, First Capitol Drive will have no allocated space(s) for the loading and unloading of commercial vehicles.
5. Is First Capitol Drive going to be closed to traffic during construction?
    - During construction, one lane of traffic in each direction will be open at all times on First Capitol Drive including, during Christmas Traditions.
  6. How will the sidewalks be improved on First Capitol Drive?
    - The sidewalks will be 10' wide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible facilities. There are sidewalk areas less than 10' due to the location of building structures.
    - New pedestrian lighting and landscaping will be constructed to provide a comfortable and safe path for pedestrians.
    - Multiple 6' long seat walls will be added to the First Street Drive sidewalk
  7. Will the St. Charles Area Transit (SCAT) system stop be impacted?
    - Existing SCAT stops will remain but may be relocated. The City of St. Charles, in cooperation with SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital, are reviewing all options pertaining to the current SCAT stop. Two bus shelters will be added to SCAT stop locations.
  8. How will the businesses along First Capitol Drive be impacted during construction?
    - The City of St. Charles will make every effort to encourage continued and future support of the businesses along First Capitol Drive during construction. Detour signage will be posted when and where applicable. Electronic signage will be present to indicate traffic impacts and that businesses along First Capitol Drive are open.
  9. Will detours and wayfinding be clearly marked during construction?
    - To address traffic control signage requests and wayfinding concerns, the Mayor has appointed a taskforce of local business owners to assist Public Works. The task force consists of Mr. David Campbell, Mr. Bob Schuette, Mr. Brian Hill and Mrs. Sharlotte Worthington.
  10. Will the utilities along First Capitol Drive be relocated?
    - Poled utilities (electric and phone) currently along First Capitol Drive will be placed underground. This feature will improve the visual appearance of First Capitol Drive, as well as safely increasing the pedestrian and driver experience.

11. How is the First Capitol Drive Enhancement project being funded?
  - This project is funded through a private public partnership involving SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital, Federal TAP funds and the City of St. Charles
  
12. What is the estimated cost of the First Capitol Drive Enhancements?
  - This project is estimated to cost \$3.2 million (including utilities) of which 40% will be funded through Federal TAP, 44% City of St. Charles and 16% from SSM St. Joseph Hospital.
  
13. How many on-street parking spaces will be modified due to the design enhancements?
  - Only 5-6 on-street parking spaces currently exist and most of those are time restricted.
  - No designated on-street loading zones currently exist.
  - Three full-time on-street parking spaces will remain along the corridor as part of the project design.
  
14. How long will it take to complete the project?
  - The enhancement of First Capitol is scheduled to begin in January 2017 and be substantially completed in early 2018.