

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
March 17, 2026	5.d

TO: Mayor Benetti, Council President DiNovo, and City Councilors

FROM: Jennifer Wirsing, Public Works Director

THROUGH: Nichole Rutherford, City Manager

ISSUE: Discussion Regarding the Front Street Improvement Project

SUMMARY:

Council will discuss the proposed multi-use trail along Front Street from Cedar Avenue to just north of Fir Avenue.

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases the Council, direct staff to commence forward with Final Design based on the design concepts presented in the staff report for the Front Street Improvement Project from Cedar Avenue to Fir Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

The Front Street Blueprint was completed in 2022. The study limits are along Front Street and extend from Market Avenue to just north of Fir Avenue. The Blueprint established a holistic, conceptual vision that evaluated wayfinding, multimodal transportation, and safety improvements and was developed using available aerial mapping data along with significant community input. Throughout that process, we heard concerns from local businesses regarding the potential loss of parking. In response, the City has constructed a new public parking lot providing 33 additional stalls to help offset potential impacts.

The City, together with its consultant David Evans and Associates (DEA), is transitioning the conceptual planning performed in the Blueprint phase to Final Design. The limits of Final Design are for the northern study area along Front Street between Cedar and Fir Avenue. City staff have been coordinating with the Parks Commission, and they have recommended a continuous 12-foot-wide multi-use path along the east side of Front Street, from Cedar Avenue to Fir Avenue.

A project such as this needs to balance the goals of preserving parking, improving pedestrian and bicycle access, maintaining safe and functional circulation for all modes of traffic, and minimizing impacts to existing businesses and property owners. With the new design, there are areas where parking will be modified but overall and as a result of the new parking lot, the public parking spaces in this study area will be increased. Furthermore, there is uncertainty about the future of the railroad tracks in this area. Staff, in partnership with DEA, will design this project such that it will assume the tracks will remain in place in the near future but also allow the design to accommodate for when the tracks are removed without major rework of the multi-use trail.

The concept for the final design plans for the study area north of Cedar Avenue will consist of the following:

1. Minimum 12-foot-wide multi-use trail along east side of Front Street; trail will accommodate bikes and pedestrians traveling northbound.

2. Minimum 5-foot sidewalks along west side of Front Street.
3. Sharrows along southbound lane of Front Street to accommodate bicycles.

At a January 6, 2026, Council Meeting, this project was presented. There were concerns about parking in the southern half of the study area (south of Cedar Avenue) and without detailed topographic information, staff cannot answer questions related to the public parking south of Cedar Avenue. However, when final design commences for this portion of Front Street, staff will coordinate with the local business with the goal of minimizing impacts on public parking, similar to what is currently being done in the northern study limits. At this time, staff is recommending moving forward with Final Design efforts for the multi-use trail north of Cedar Avenue and incorporating the three design concepts presented above.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no budgetary impacts with the recommended action item as Final Design for this project has already been approved. Funds for this design effort are from the Downtown Urban Renewal Agency.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 2026-03 Final Design Concept