Main Street Reconstruction... becoming a reality

By Keith T. Carlyle, Mayor

The Main Street Reconstruction project that we have heard about for the past two years will become a reality with a bid letting scheduled for November of 1991. This project is estimated to cost between $3-5 million, depending on the scope of pedestrian facilities, landscaping work and other amenities that may be incorporated into the project. City staff has identified a need to establish a process to provide accurate and timely information to the businesses along Main Street that will be affected by this year long construction project. Major difficulties anticipated include disruption to vehicular and pedestrian traffic and access to businesses during construction, and the construction sequencing of the project.

I am requesting that a committee consisting of representatives from each block be organized to work with city staff in discussing options that may be available for this construction project. City staff is anticipating beginning work with this committee the first part of March. Issues that need to be addressed are whether traffic is maintained by leaving one lane open while work commences on the closed portion of the street, or should one or two blocks be closed at one time; and, are these feasible or practical when it comes to doing the actual construction, both in terms of staging work to be completed and financial considerations in terms of additional costs. This project will include installation of new utilities, including storm sewer, curb, gutter, infrastructure for future beautification improvements, and new concrete surfacing. The construction zone for the Main Street Project will be from East Boulevard to West Boulevard and approximately 100 feet either side of the Main Street centerline at intersecting streets.

During the actual construction project, weekly "construction project updates" are proposed to appear in the Rapid City Journal, and if unanticipated delays are encountered on the project, press releases will be issued so everyone is informed as quickly as possible of the delays. I would encourage anyone affected by the Main Street Project that may be interested in being a member of the Main Street Construction Committee to call my office at 394-4110 and express their desire to serve.

Future articles that will appear in this paper regarding the Main Street Re- construction Project will address the Main Street Master Plan; progress on bid letting for the construction project and how that will be completed; proposed beautification improvements looking at xeriscaping as an option; and the process by which information will be disseminated on the project.

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