

Imagine Downtown Chehalis

Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is the purpose of the Downtown Chehalis Rejuvenation Plan?

The City of Chehalis is developing a downtown rejuvenation plan that will enhance streetscapes and public spaces, improve accessibility and safety, and preserve the historic charm of the downtown area. The goal is to create a safer and more welcoming streetscape, fostering a sense of community and supporting economic prosperity.

This project aims to provide a long-term vision for the reconstruction of Market Boulevard, Washington and Pacific Avenues, and Boistfort Street in historic downtown Chehalis. This comprehensive effort includes upgraded sidewalks, optimized traffic flow, improved roadways, opportunities for community events, and enhanced lighting. This plan will help the City secure funding for future development and is intended to guide final design and construction.

2. How is this project being funded? Where will funding for the next phase come from?

The Downtown Rejuvenation Plan project is funded by the City of Chehalis.

Funding for future phases, including final design and construction, will likely be through a combination of funding sources to be explored as part of this process. Funding sources could include a combination of grants, local agency funding, bonds or levies, or other funding sources.

3. What is the anticipated timeline for completing the Downtown Rejuvenation Plan? When will construction begin?

The Downtown Rejuvenation Plan project began in February 2024 and is anticipated to be completed in early 2025.

Following this project's completion, the City will look for additional funding to support the final design, permitting, and construction of the preferred concept plan. The project would likely be constructed in multiple phases over time. There is currently no timeline for future phases, but the City is eager to keep the project moving once funding is available.



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4. Why don't the project boundaries include the entire downtown?

The project boundary focuses on the historic commercial core of Downtown Chehalis. This area constitutes the bulk of the Chehalis Downtown Historic District, for which this project will provide specific recommendations for the preservation of historic architecture. Additionally, limiting the project scope in this way allows the City to manage costs for the future design and construction projects. We anticipate that many of the aesthetics and designs could set the tone for application beyond the project boundaries.

5. Will businesses be impacted?

Though construction is not a part of this project's scope, the future construction of the proposed improvements will likely create some temporary impacts to businesses. Businesses will remain accessible and operational throughout any future phases and impacts would be minimized to the extent feasible. Proposed improvements aim to enhance the overall visitor experience and to bolster the economic prosperity of businesses downtown. The intent of this project is to raise awareness and to gain consensus from the community, including business and property owners within the project area, regarding proposed improvements, priorities and potential phasing in the preferred concept.

6. Will there be less parking?

There are no plans to reduce the availability of parking as part of this project.

7. How can community members and stakeholders provide input during the planning phase?

Community members are encouraged to provide feedback at all stages of the project. Multiple open house events will be hosted throughout the year where all members of the public are invited to review materials and provide input. Each of these open house events will be followed by an online survey so that additional feedback may be provided as a preferred concept is developed and further refined.

Additional comments and questions may be directed to Celest Wilder, Capital Improvement Project Manager with Chehalis Public Works at cwilder@ci.chehalis.wa.us and (360) 748-0238.

More information, including links to online surveys, can be found at the following websites:

- <https://www.ci.chehalis.wa.us/chehalis/imagine-downtown-chehalis>
- <https://experiencechehalis.com/imagine-chehalis/>

