

January 29, 2016

Colfax Streetscape Plans Complete, Two Projects Underway

The Colfax Mayfair Business Improvement District wrapped up a nine-month streetscape planning process in December, and is now working to implement two projects this year and next.

“The final plan recommends a set of modest improvements designed to support local identity while making it easier and safer for people to get around the district,” said Hilarie Portell, executive director. The plan includes more pedestrian lighting, street trees and bike racks. Some sidewalks would be repaired and bulb-outs added to lighted intersections. Public art is recommended at key locations.

Capital improvements will need to be publicly financed, but the BID can assemble some private funding and assume long-term maintenance responsibility. “We are working with the other three Colfax BIDs to propose streetscape improvements along the corridor for the next neighborhood bond issue,” said Portell.

In the meantime, Portell is seeking 2017 funding for two short-term projects, and needs neighborhood support.

Pedestrian Crossing at Colfax/Fairfax

The BID is requesting 2017 City Capital Improvements Project funding for a new pedestrian crossing at Colfax and Fairfax Avenue. This six-block segment is lined by popular neighborhood businesses but there is no lighted intersection for several blocks in either direction. Motorists tend to speed and up to 50 pedestrians per hour (during peak summer evenings) are running across the street. There have been two high-speed car collisions this area in the last 12 months. It’s a chaotic area that needs to be addressed.

“This situation is of concern to all stakeholders, including neighbors, business owners and the police,” said Portell. “We need to address it. But—we’re competing with many priority projects around town.”

This project has strong support from the Mayfair, Park Hill and East Montclair neighborhoods. In fact, Greater Park Hill Community Inc. board of directors has pledged \$10,000 toward costs.

“Colfax is a vital part of our community, but it’s been neglected for too long,” said Tracey MacDermott, board president. “We have an opportunity with this project to improve safety, attract new businesses and strengthen neighborhood sustainability.”

Neighbors south of Colfax can help by contacting Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman at 303.337.5555 or Marybeth.susman@denvergov.org. Neighbors north of Colfax should contact Councilman Chris Herndon at 720.337.3888 or Christopher.herndon@denvergov.org.

Mayfair Town Center Bicycle Improvements

Denver Public Works has agreed to install a signed bike route on Krameria Street between 14th Avenue and Colfax this year. This is part of a north-south bike route in Denver Moves, the city’s bicycle plan. The BID will seek grant funding for a bicycle rack or corral this spring. The BID is also exploring how to re-light about 15 older pedestrian street lamps in this area. “A Mayfair neighbor called to ask why these lights were dark at night,” said Portell. “We may be able to get them back on.” This would improve safety at night, especially for people walking to and from the bus stop on Colfax/Krameria.

Little things add up, said Portell. “We are a small organization with limited resources, so we need to be creative, leveraging different funding sources and working with our community stakeholders. We are extremely grateful for neighborhood support and are doing our best to strengthen the area for everyone.”

More about the streetscape plan and projects is posted at www.colfaxmayfairbid.com under “Streetscape Project.” Stay in the loop on Colfax happenings by registering for a monthly e-newsletter on the website or liking them on Facebook!

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