

Historic Willamette Falls Drive FAQ

Thank you to everyone who came to the recent open house and provided [comment](#) on the design plans for Historic Willamette Falls Drive. Below are some answers to some frequently asked questions we received at the open house.

Why is the City building bike paths on Willamette Falls Drive, 10th Street, Blankenship Road, and Salamo Road?

- Active transportation is an important part of the City’s vision and transportation mode share goals. Community members envision a future where residents have multiple, active transportation choices to move around the city. The City also aims to achieve 40 – 45% non-single-occupant vehicle trip mode share in town center areas, such as the Willamette area, by 2040. In order to achieve these goals, the City developed a list of projects in the 2016 [Transportation System Plan \(TSP\)](#) update. The bike paths on both sides of Willamette Falls Drive were included as projects B39 and B40 in the TSP and the two-way bike path on the north side of Salamo Road was included as project B38. The Historic Willamette organization also developed a “Conceptual Streetscape Master Plan” in 2017 which laid the foundation of the design of the improvements on Willamette Falls Drive.

Why back-in angle parking?

- Back-in parking can improve safety. When leaving a parking space, the driver is able to see the surroundings and oncoming traffic more clearly, unlike backing out of a parking space means entering unknown traffic. It also creates a safer position for drivers, passengers (and kids) to enter/exit toward the sidewalk with doors shielding from traffic. A majority of these spaces will be sloped rather steep due to existing roadway elevation. Back in angle means fewer door dings as the door will naturally close to the vehicle instead of opening into the adjacent parked car. This style of parking is already used successfully in downtown Portland on SW 10th Avenue, E McLoughlin Blvd near Clark College in Vancouver, WA, and other communities throughout the country.

Will businesses be open during construction?

- Yes, the City plans to utilize construction management techniques such as phasing and temporary detours to allow pedestrian and vehicular access to businesses during construction.

What will happen to the existing trees?

- The existing trees will be removed in order to construct the street improvements. The streetscape plans includes planting new street trees and landscape buffer areas.

Is the City installing any new traffic signals?

- The City will install footings and poles to accommodate future installation of traffic signals and mast arms on Willamette Falls Drive at 10th and 12th Streets. These signals will be installed when 10th Street is improved, because turning restrictions at 8th Avenue and 8th Court will redirect traffic to these intersections. The traffic plan for 10th Street is explained on pages 90 and 91 of the TSP.

When will construction start?

- Historic Willamette Falls Drive – Early 2020
- 10th Street interchange with I-205 and Salamo Road: 2021
- Blankenship Road: No date set. Schedule partially dependent on redevelopment in the area

When will the rest of Willamette Falls Drive be improved?

- The remainder of Willamette Falls Drive, from the Tualatin River to 16th Street and from 10th Street to Highway 43, is currently under design phase under a separate **contract**. The goal for that project is to design these street improvements to about 30% complete, where the plan layout will be developed. That project can be viewed on the City's website for project PW-19-03 Arterial Roadway Preliminary Design.

Will the power and communication utilities be placed underground?

- No, the preliminary plan is to relocate the majority of overhead power and communication utilities to Knapps Alley and 8th Avenue. The plan includes some areas where overhead utilities will cross Willamette Falls Drive to accommodate service on side streets. This part of the project is under active design and consideration and may change.

For more on this voter approved GO Bond project, including design plans, open house boards, and more, please click [here](#).