

City Council Meeting Packet



February 4, 2020

AGENDA

Norton City Council

February 4, 2020

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation – Rev. Freddie Powers
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
 1. Meeting of January 7, 2019
5. Audience for Visitors
6. Special Presentations
7. Public Hearing
 - A. Public Hearing to Solicit Input Public Input on Local Community Development and Housing Needs in Relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for a Project in the City.
 1. Public Hearing
8. New Business
 - A. Update from the Pro-Art Association.
 - B. Consideration of a 2020-21 Local Government Challenge Grant Application in the Amount of \$4,500.

- C. Discussion Regarding the Park Avenue Improvements Study and Potential SmartScale Applications.
- D. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.
- E. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia as Amended.

- 1. Appointment of a Parent Representative to the Norton Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) for a Two Year Term.
- 2. Appointment to the Norton Redevelopment & Housing Authority for a Four Year Term, Currently Lynn Livingston Whose Term Expires 1/28/20.

To 1/28/24

- 3. Appointments to the Highway Safety Committee for a Two Year Term; Currently James Lane, Frank Gravely, David Daniels, and Mark Conner Whose Terms Expires 1/31/2020.

To 1/31/2022

- 4. Appointment to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a Five Year Term, Currently Stephen McElroy Whose Term Expires 2/18/20.

To 2/18/25

9. Comments by the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council.

10. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: William Mays, Robert Fultz, Jr., Joseph Fawbush, Mark Caruso, and Delores Belcher

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager

The invocation was given Pastor and Councilman Robert Fultz, Jr., and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led Police Chief James Lane.

At this time, Councilman Caruso asked members to consider amending the agenda to move Item D – Discussion Regarding Militia Support Resolution to Item A, remove Item B – Presentation by MCA Cable of Southwest Virginia Regarding Expansion of Cable Services Into the City of Norton because the company’s presenter could not be present at tonight’s meeting, and move Item A – Presentation of the Planned 2020 Community Calendar of Events/Activities to Item B. It was the consensus of council to amend the agenda as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the December 17, 2019, meeting as presented.

There was no response to the Mayor’s Call for Visitors.

At the December 17th council meeting, Councilman Caruso said he would like to present a militia support resolution to members at the January 7, 2020 council meeting.

Prior to start of the meeting, Councilman Caruso handed out copies of the militia support resolution he had drafted to council members for their consideration, and to the city clerk and city manager. He then read a prepared statement in which he highlighted that the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Code of Laws of the United States of America, and the Virginia State Code all contain language that supports an unorganized militia that is comprised of only law-abiding, well-trained, and well-armed citizens whose purpose is to aid local civil authorities, including law enforcement, in times of crisis, to ensure the safety and security of the citizenry, and to maintain a free state (complete statement attached).

After Councilman Caruso finished reading his prepared statement, applause was given from audience members, and he then read the proposed resolution making a motion to adopt a Resolution Supporting the Order of Militia Within the City of Norton, Virginia, Pursuant to the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 13 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

After lengthy discussion among council members, and comments made from various audience members, Councilman Mays seconded the motion and the resolution was passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None. Council then moved to adopt a Resolution Supporting the Order of Militia Within the City of Norton, Virginia, Pursuant to the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 13 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Council members received applause from audience members and Mayor Fawbush then declared a five-minute recess. (Insert)

The city manager said Norton Parks and Recreation Director Michele Knox and Special Projects Coordinator Katie Dunn were in attendance to present the Norton 2020 Calendar of Events/Activities.

Ms. Dunn told council the 2020 Calendar of Events/Activities is the same as last year's calendar but with a few added events such as a monthly hiking series and a half-marathon which will benefit trail maintenance and development in the Flag Rock Recreation Area. She then shared with council that outdoor yoga, mountain bike rides, and other activities from 2019 will continue in 2020.

Ms. Knox updated council on Parks and Recreation events and activities planned for the upcoming year. She said the department will continue the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Bash in the city park, Fantastic Friday Water Slides during the summer at city parks, various summer camps for the kids, flag football and basketball camps, Independence Day Celebration and Parade, Sip-N-Paint classes, Trash to Treasures classes, Christmas Parade, Adopt-a-Spot, the Farmers Market from June through December, environmental classes, paint-a-can contests, the Great American Cleanup in April, the Best Friend Festival in June, paper collection programs at both schools, curbside recycling, and other activities.

On behalf of council, Mayor Fawbush thanked Ms. Dunn and Ms. Knox for their efforts to keep the citizens informed on social media and for their leadership.

Mr. Ramey presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Park Avenue Improvements Study and said the primary purpose of this grant was to study traffic operations and safety along Park Avenue from Tipple Hill to 15th Street, N.W., Norton-Coeburn Road from Tipple Hill to Hawthorne Drive, and 11th Street from Park Avenue to Kentucky Avenue. Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will conduct a meeting on Wednesday, January 15th, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers, and citizens will be able to speak with VDOT representatives about the project. He said based upon the information, recommendations will be made on how to improve traffic and safety for all roadway users including vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Mr. Ramey said some of the improvements VDOT will be sharing with citizens at the meeting will include changes to the Hawthorne Intersection, entrance to the Virginia-Kentucky Shopping Center, various improvements to traffic signals throughout the city, entrance into downtown from Tipple Hill to Route 74, various options for providing a road dike between Route 74 to 11th Street, N.W., evaluating the roadway from 11th Street to Minors Exchange Bank, and specifically looking at 12th Street, N.W., to make it pedestrian friendly. Mr. Ramey said the study will assist the city and VDOT in making decisions to prioritize projects with various funding sources including VDOT's Smartscale program. He said VDOT has provided a flyer and advertised the meeting to receive public input, and city administration is concentrating on notifying downtown business owners and board members. Mr. Ramey said there will not be a formal presentation, but citizens can drop by anytime during the timeframe to see three different recommendations on the plans and talk to VDOT representatives.

Also included packets for council consideration was a check to Inland Construction, Inc., dated December 1, 2019, in the amount of \$153,918.05 to cover downtown improvements.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the check to Inland Construction, as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, and Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to go back into open meeting.

Mayor Fawbush declared council back in open meeting.

The clerk polled each member of council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The clerk then read a Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for three nominations to the Board of Equalization for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2020.

Councilwoman Belcher nominated Frank Gravely, Sr., David Daniels, and Elijah Roop to be appointed to the Board of Equalization with Stephen McElroy appointed as an alternate for one-year terms to expire December 31, 2020.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Fawbush declared Frank Gravely, Sr., David Daniels, and Elijah Roop nominated to the Board of Equalization with Stephen McElroy nominated as an alternate for one-year terms to expire December 31, 2020. These names will be submitted to the Wise County Circuit Court for approval.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for a nomination to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a two-year term to expire January 16, 2022.

Councilman Caruso nominated Fred Ramey to be reappointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a two-year term to expire January 16, 2022.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Fawbush declared Fred Ramey reappointed to the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for a two-year term to expire January 16, 2022.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for a nomination to the Ninth District Development Financing, Inc., for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2022.

Councilman Mays nominated Carol Caruso to be reappointed to the Ninth District Development Financing, Inc., for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2022.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, with Councilman Caruso abstaining, council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Fawbush declared Carol Caruso reappointed to the Ninth District Development Financing, Inc., for a two-year term to expire January 31, 2022.

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for two nominations to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a one-year term to expire February 1, 2021.

Councilman Caruso nominated Delores Belcher and William Mays to be reappointed to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a one-year term to expire February 1, 2021.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, with Councilwoman Belcher and Councilman Mays abstaining, council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Fawbush declared Delores Belcher and William Mays reappointed to the Norton Rescue Squad Board of Directors for a one-year term to expire February 1, 2021.

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey told council he had confirmed that members had completed the required Conflict of Interest Act Training by the deadline of December 31, 2019.

Mr. Ramey advised council it is time to file annual disclosure statements and the submittal deadline is Monday, February 3, 2020.

Mr. Ramey said he provided each member with an overview of city council highlights for 2019.

He reminded council that the next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4th due to the Legislative Reception in Richmond.

Mr. Ramey said the Virginia Municipal League's magazine *Virginia Town and City* highlights Norton on Page 7 regarding Norton being featured on a public radio segment.

Mr. Ramey told council he provided members with copies of the latest traffic counts for High Knob and Flag Rock Recreation Area.

Mr. Ramey said upcoming events in the city include the VDOT Park Avenue Improvement Study meeting on Wednesday, January 15th and the Regional Legislative Reception planned on Wednesday, January 22nd in Richmond.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Caruso thanked fellow council members for their support of the militia resolution, and he said it is important that citizens know council supports the constitution both in written form and intent. He also appreciates that council supports the constitution.

Mayor Fawbush said there will be a funding announcement at 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 24th, in the main ballroom of The Wise Inn.

He said members will be traveling to Richmond for the Legislative Reception at The Library of Virginia, scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd, so there will be no council meeting on Tuesday, January 21st. Mayor Fawbush advised the next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4th.

Councilman Fultz shared that his grandson and John I. Burton High School student Lucas Addison went to Richmond to serve as a Page for Delegate Terry Kilgore in the Virginia Legislature for the next two months. He said it is a wonderful opportunity for Lucas and he is very excited.

There being no further business to come before council, Mayor Fawbush declared the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council

Inter-Office Memo



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: January 31, 2020
Re: Special Presentation – Employee Service Pins

As you know, historically each year we award employee service to employees who reach service milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25 years of service.

Tonight, I have invited each of the employees who have reached one of the milestones.

30 Years

Barbara Muir

25 Years

Julia Newsome
Margaret Asher

20 Years

Jerry Miller

15 Years

Sammy Mullins
Todd Lagow
Dee Dee Jones

Thank You.

CDBG public hearing notice #1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Norton will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council chambers, 618 Virginia Avenue NW, Norton, to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the City.

Information on the amount of funding available, the requirements on benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, eligible activities, and plans to minimize displacement and provide displacement assistance, as necessary, will be available. Citizens will also be given an opportunity to comment on Norton's past use of CDBG funds. All interested citizens are urged to attend. For additional information, contact Mr. Fred Ramey, Norton City Manager, at (276) 679-1160.

Complaints and grievances can be submitted in writing to the City Manager's office at Norton City Hall, 618 Virginia Avenue NW, Norton VA 24273, or by phone at (276) 679-1160, until the date of the hearing.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call the number listed above.



Inter-Office Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*
CC:
Date: January 31, 2020
Re: Pro-Art

Jan Zentmeyer, Executive Director of Pro-Art, will provide City Council with an update regarding Pro-Art Activities.

Thank You.

Grants / Creative Communities Partnership Grants

Purpose

Formerly Local Government Challenge Grants, Creative Communities Partnership Grants encourage local governments to support the arts.

Description

The Commission will match, up to \$4,500, subject to funds available, the tax monies given by independent town, city, and county governments to stand-alone arts organizations. The money, which does not include school arts budgets or arts programming by local governments, committees or councils of government, nor departments such as parks and recreation, may be subgranted either by a local arts commission/council or directly by the governing body.

Eligible Applicants

Independent city, town, or county governments in Virginia.

Eligible Activities

Grants to independent arts organizations for arts activities in the locality. The Commission does not match payments paid to performers for specific performances. Local governments seeking such funding should apply in the Performing Arts Touring Assistance Program.

W-9 Form Requirement

All organizations applying to the Virginia Commission for the Arts are required to provide a Virginia W-9 Form. Download a W-9 form, [HERE](#).

DUNS Number Requirement

All applicants must include their DUNS number when applying for a grant. Obtaining your DUNS number is a free, straightforward process. For more information, [click here](#).

Deadlines

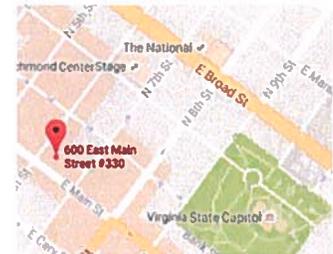
The online application is due on April 1, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. for local government grants awarded in 2020-2021.

NOTE: A local government that has not approved its budget by the grant deadline may apply conditionally and confirm the application as soon as possible.

Amount of Assistance

[Back to Grants](#)

DIRECTIONS TO OUR OFFICE



[Back to top](#)

Virginia Commission for the Arts

Main Street Centre

600 East Main Street, Suite 330

Richmond, Virginia 23219

[Back to top](#)

(804) 225-3132

[Contact Us](#)

[Back to top](#)

[Back to top](#)

Up to \$4,500, subject to funds available. The local government match must be from local government funds; federal funds may not be included.

[Back to top](#)

Criteria for Evaluating Applications

- Artistic quality of the organizations supported by the city/county/town
- Clearly defined policies and procedures for awarding local funds to arts organizations
- Degree of involvement of artists and arts organizations in the local process of awarding grants
- Demonstrated community impact including number of participants, duration of program, and other public and private sector involvement
- Description of ongoing local government support for arts programs and funding

[Back to top](#)

Application Review/Payment Procedure

1. Local governments must complete and submit the online application by the deadline. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**
2. The Commission staff reviews each application for completeness and eligibility.
3. The Commission staff makes recommendations on levels of funding for each application.
4. The Commission board reviews the staff recommendations and takes final action on the applications in June.
5. After confirmation of the grant award, each local government will confirm in writing to the Commission that its governing board has appropriated the matching funds and the funds from the Commission. This confirmation must take the form of the appropriate page of the local government's approved 2020-2021 budget and/or a copy of the check (s) to the sub grantee (s). The Commission will pay the grant in full after receiving this confirmation no later than February 1, 2021.

[Back to top](#)

Application and Final Report Forms

- **ONLINE grants system, HERE: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=vca>**
- Creative Communities Partnership Certification of Assurances
- Creative Communities Partnership Sub Grantee Information Form

[Back to top](#)

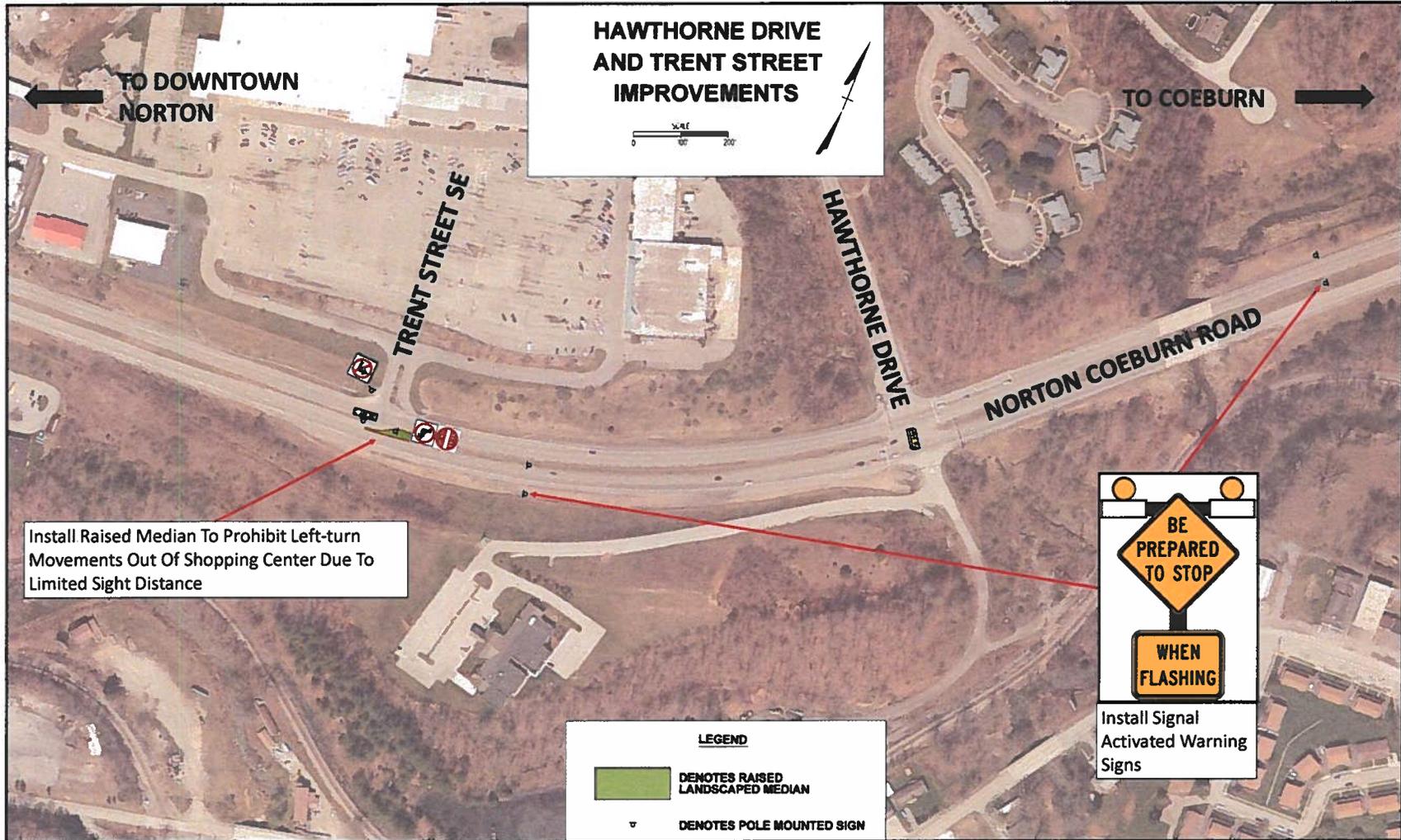
MEETING INFORMATION AND STUDY LIMITS

Meeting Information

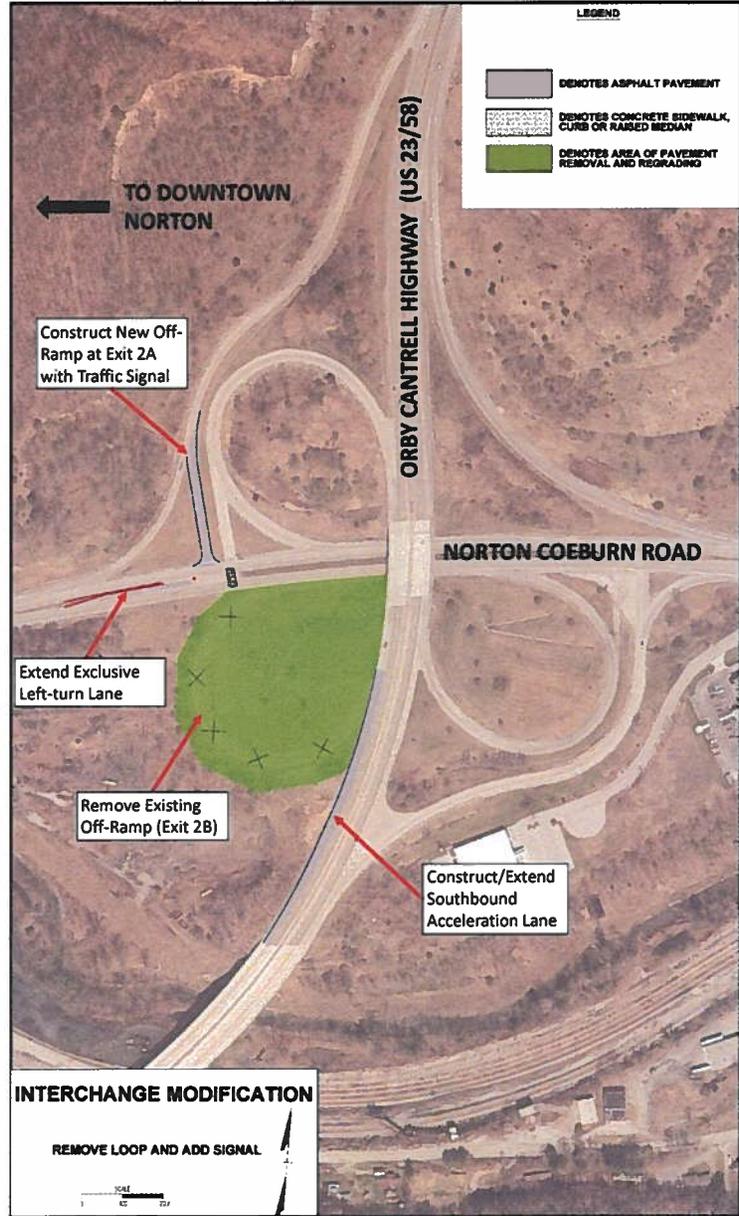
- ↳ Potential improvements address traffic flow and safety for all roadway users including vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.
- ↳ Potential improvements consider other City of Norton initiatives and/or planned improvements.
- ↳ These improvements are planning concepts - Nothing is funded or planned for construction.
- ↳ If you want more information, please ask. We're here to help.
- ↳ Please fill out the comment response sheet that corresponds with the display boards. Leave it with us so your opinions can be heard.



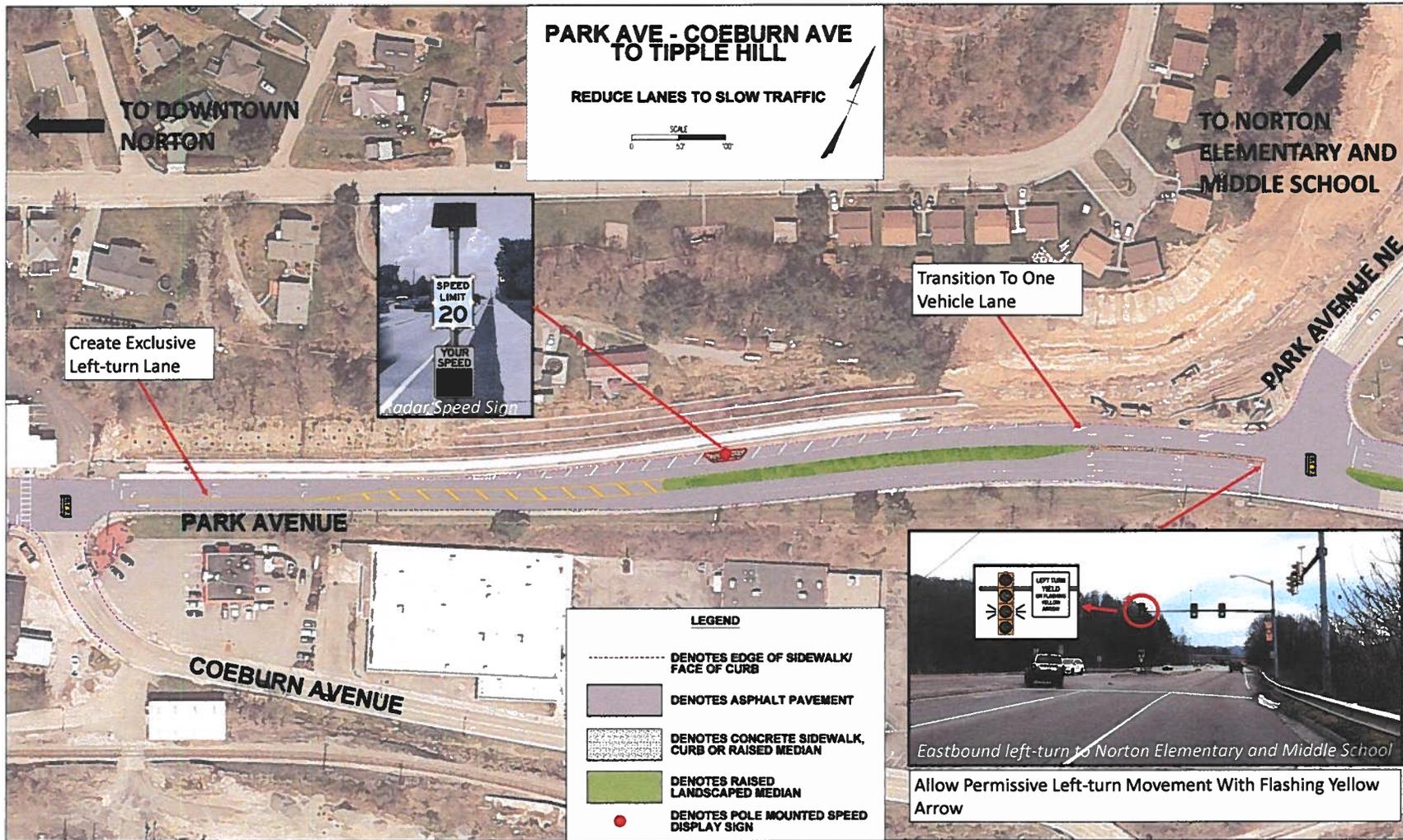
BOARD 1 – TRENT STREET AND HAWTHORNE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS



BOARD 2 – ORBY CANTRELL HIGHWAY/NORTON COEBURN ROAD INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS

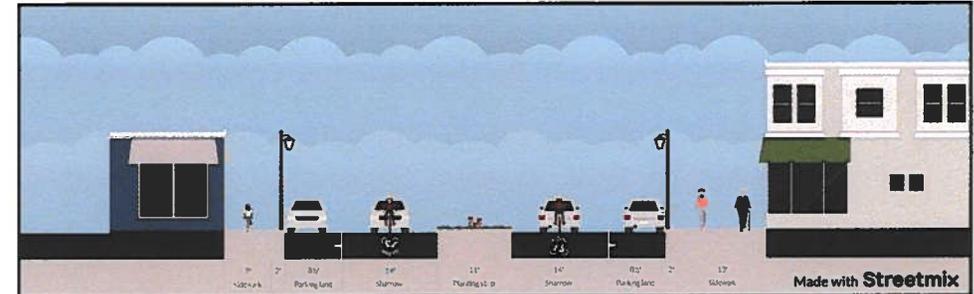
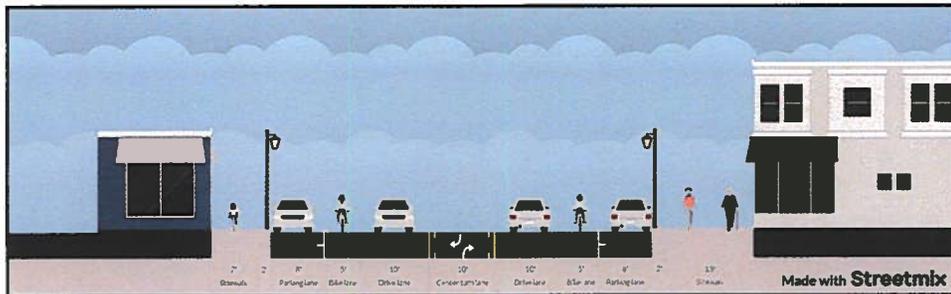
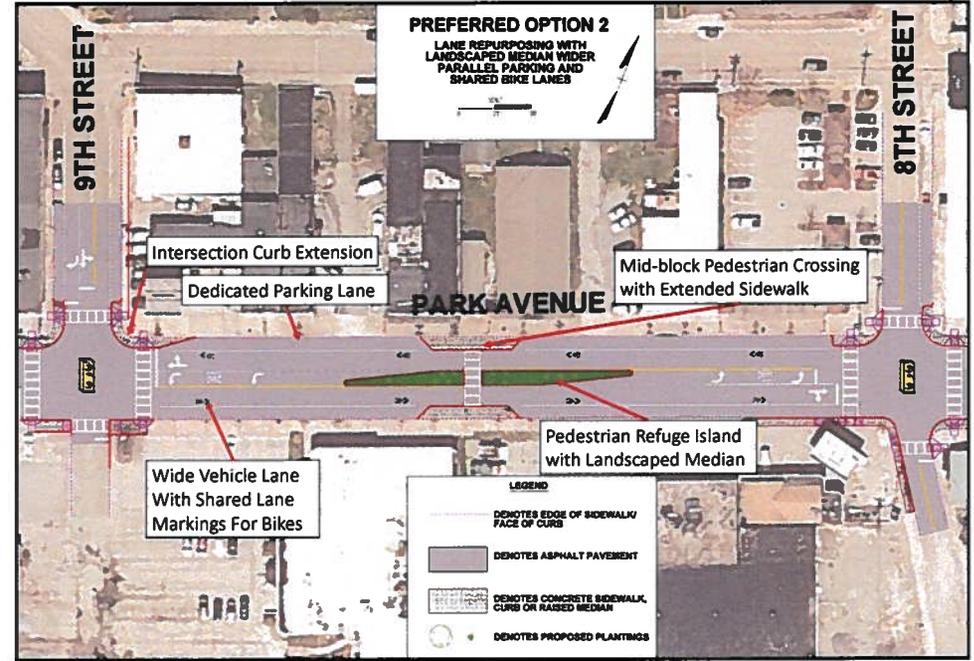
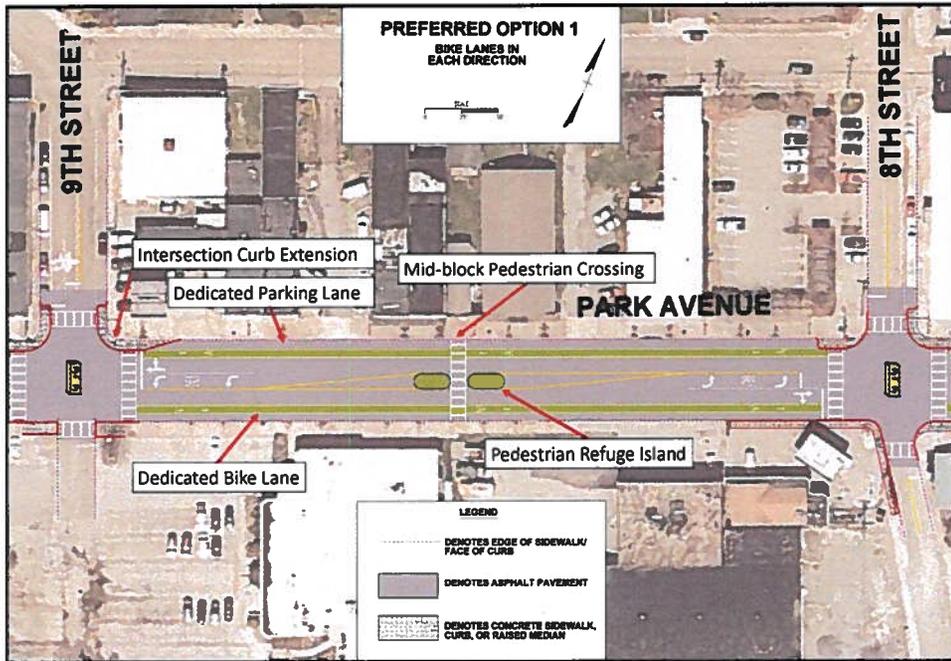


BOARD 3 – TIPPLE HILL IMPROVEMENTS



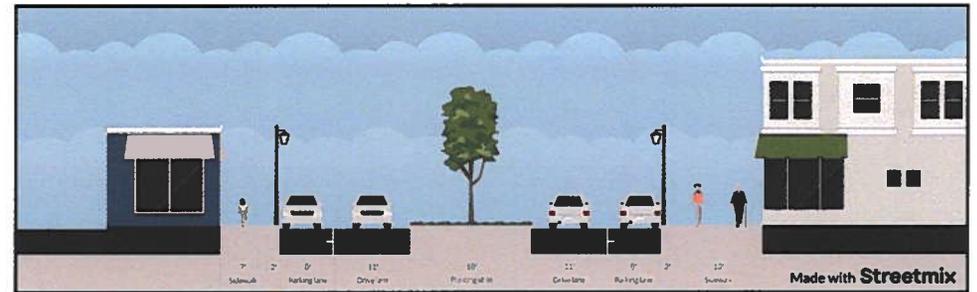
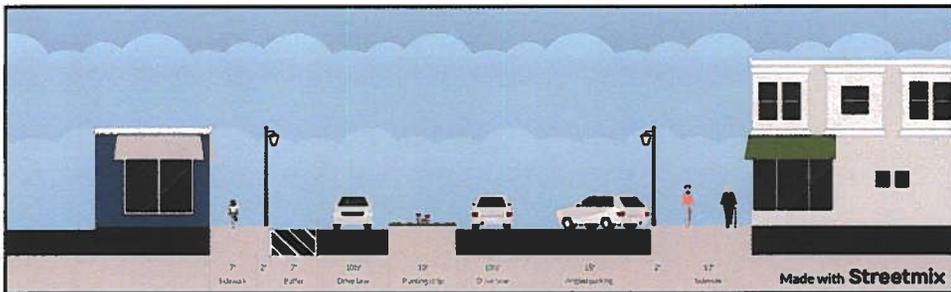
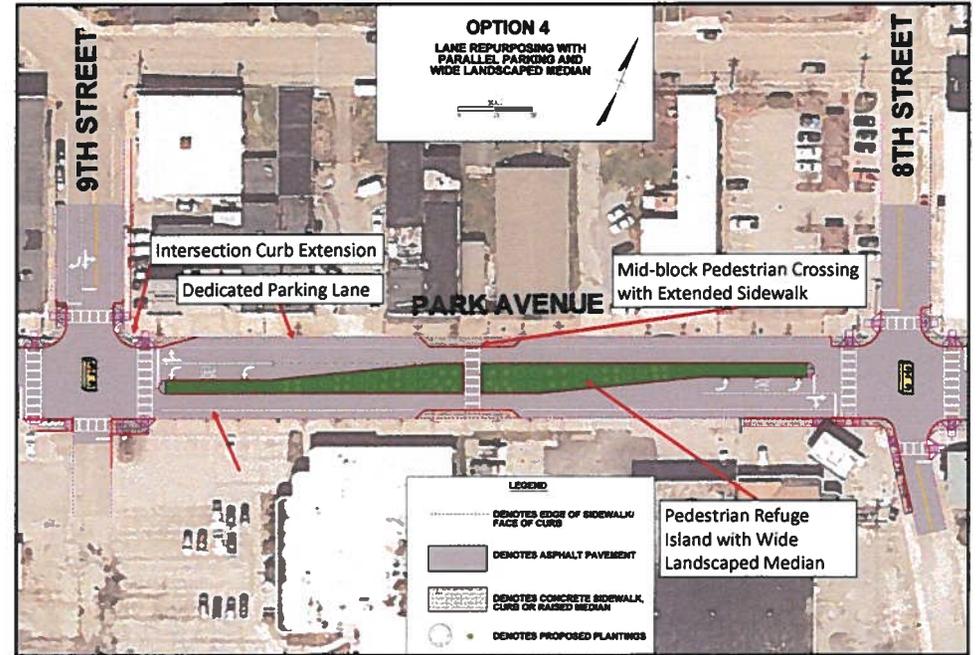
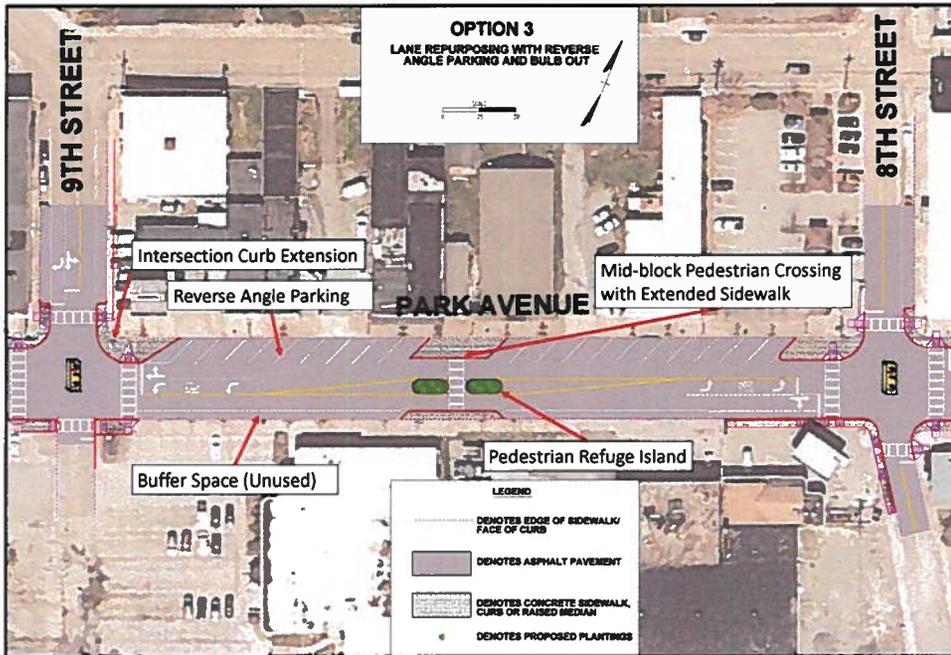
PARK AVENUE (U.S. 23) CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY

BOARD 4 – PARK AVENUE ROAD DIET – PREFERRED OPTION 1 AND PREFERRED OPTION 2



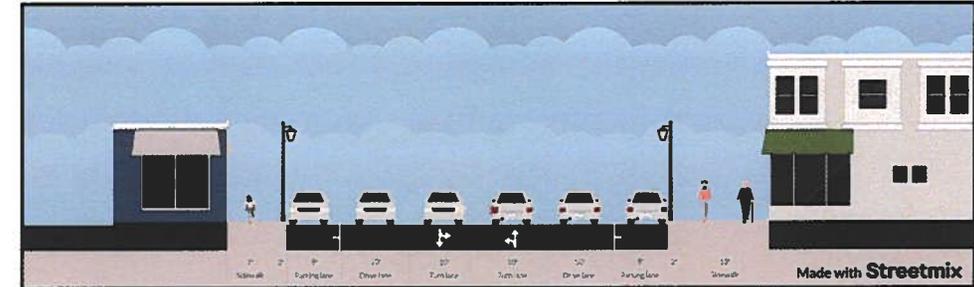
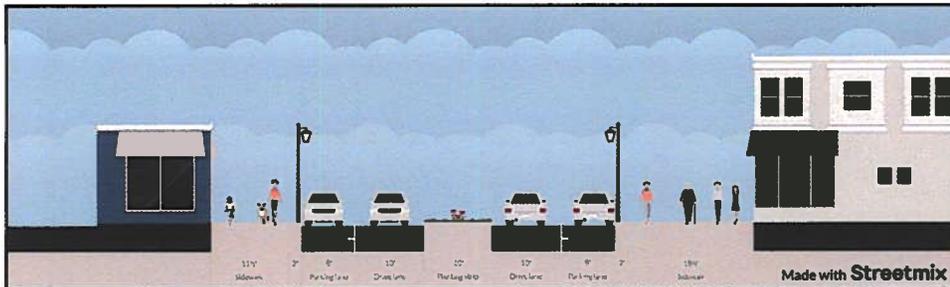
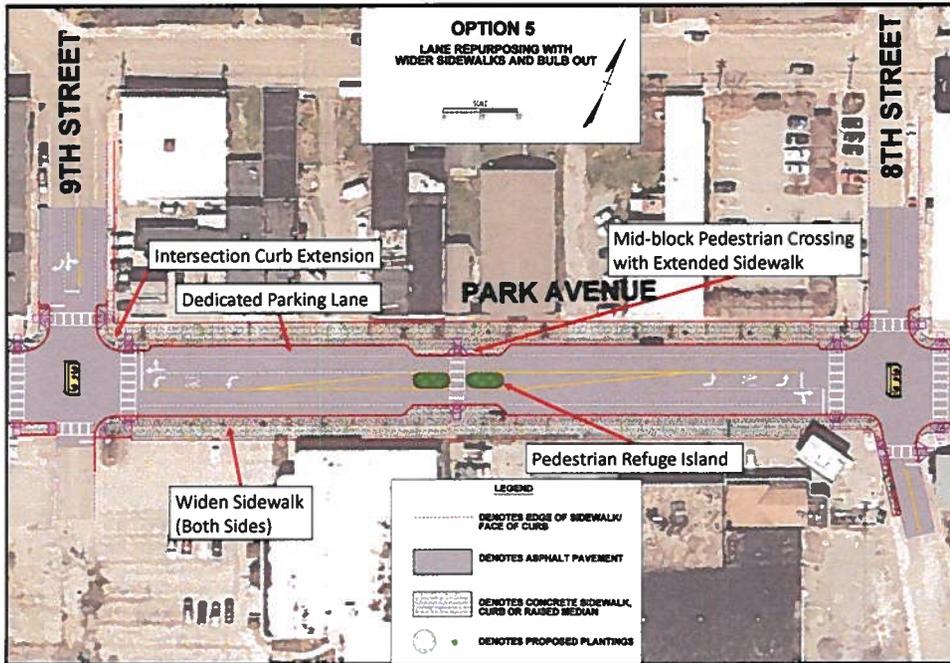
PARK AVENUE (U.S. 23) CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY

BOARD 5 – PARK AVENUE ROAD DIET – OPTION 3 AND OPTION 4



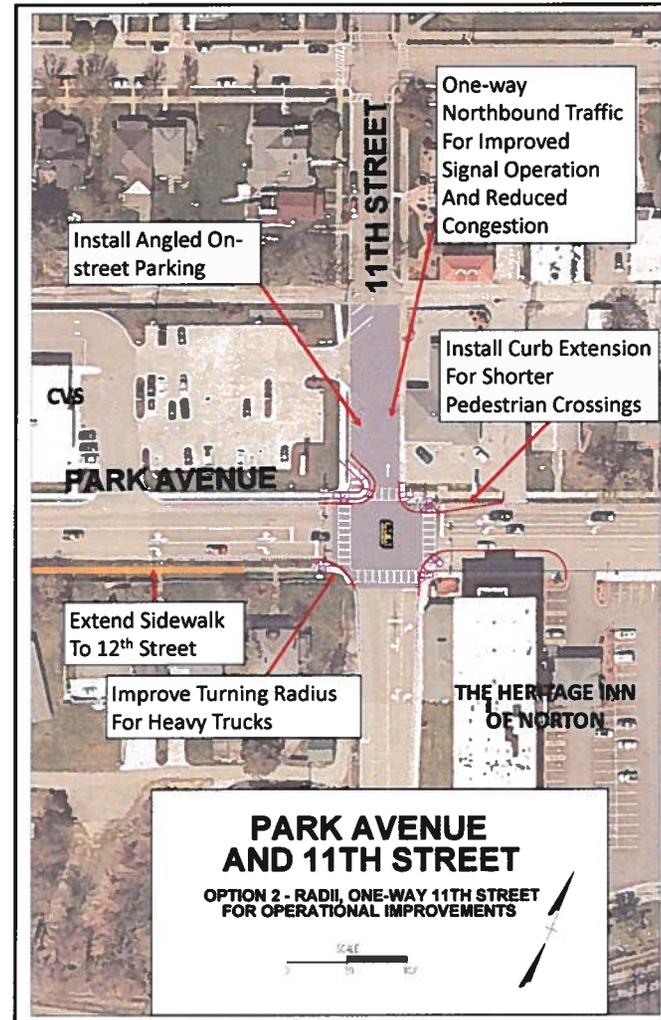
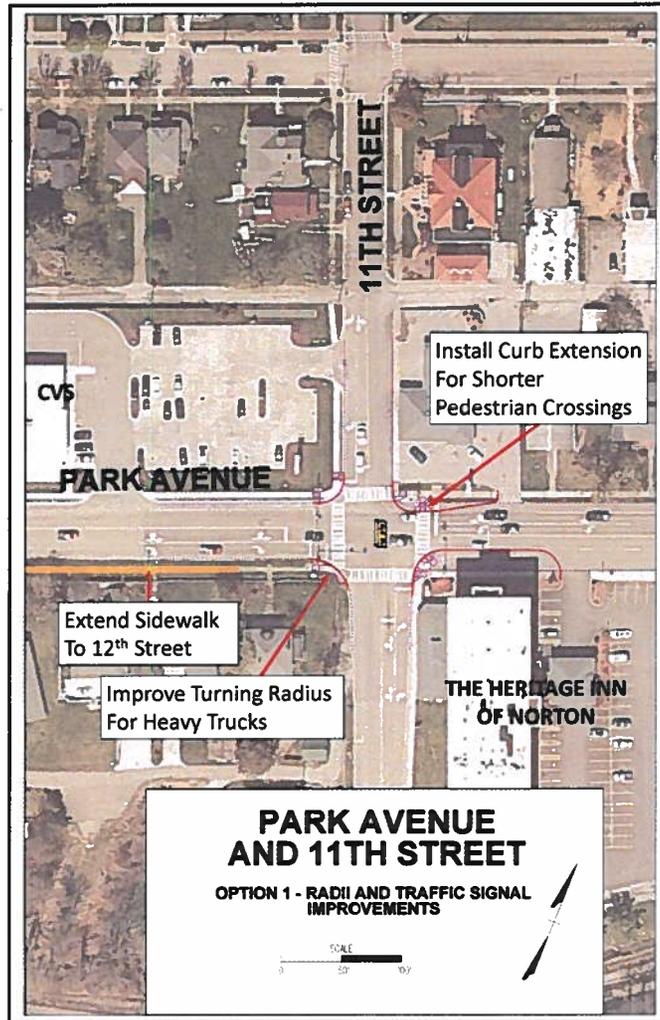
PARK AVENUE (U.S. 23) CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY

BOARD 6 – PARK AVENUE ROAD DIET – OPTION 5 AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

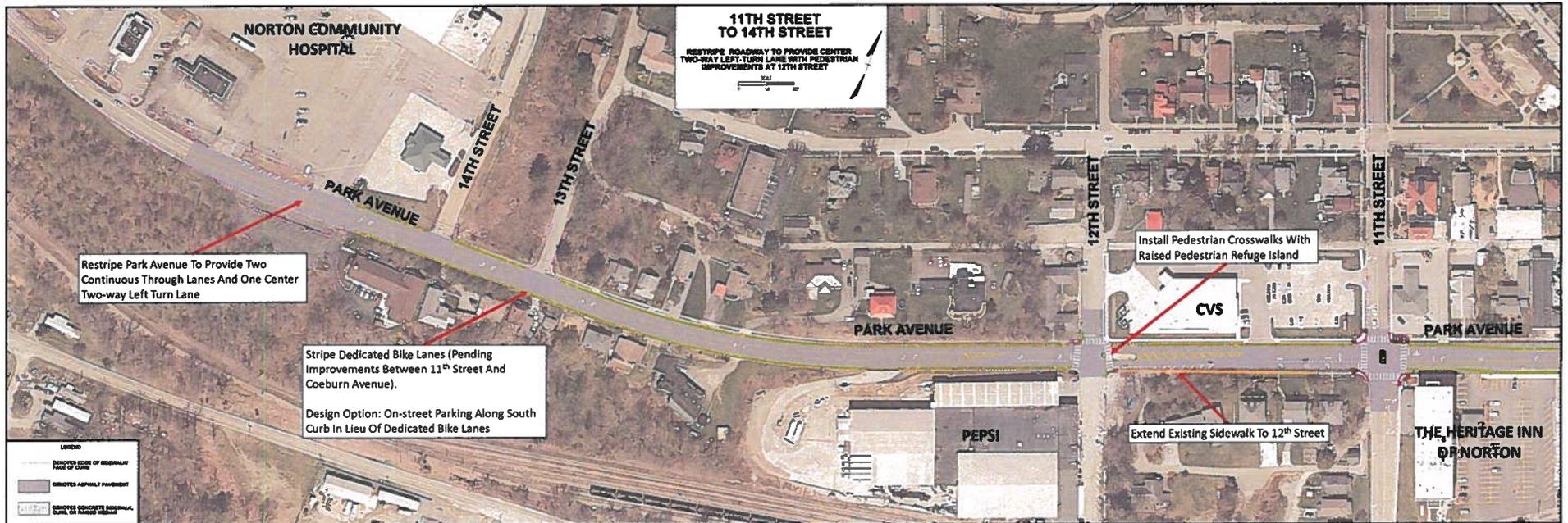


PARK AVENUE (U.S. 23) CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY

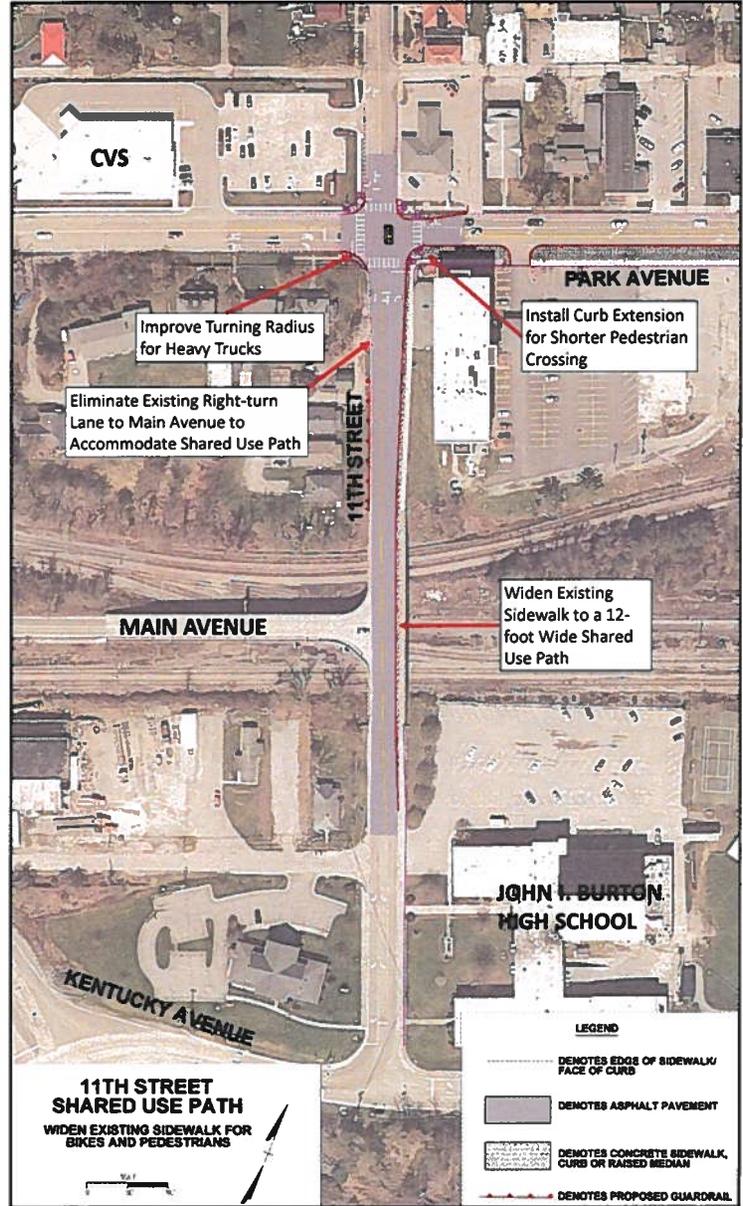
BOARD 7 – PARK AVENUE AT 11TH STREET



BOARD 8 – PARK AVENUE – 11TH STREET TO 14TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS

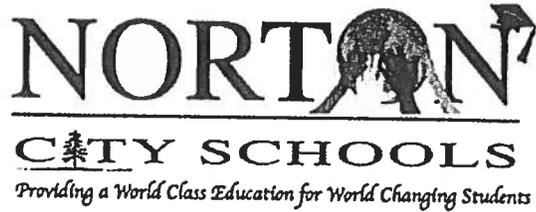


BOARD 9 – 11TH STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT



SCHOOL BOARD

Cody McElroy, Chairperson
Dr. Wes Campbell, Vice-Chairperson
Sherry Adams
Carol Caruso
Mark Leonard



DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Gina J. Wohlford
gwohlford@nortoncityschools.org
Phone 276.679.2330
Fax 276.679.4315

COPY

TO: Jeff Shupe
FROM: Jacqueline Brooke
SUBJECT: Request for Funds

DATE: December 16, 2019

Norton City Schools requests a deposit of City Funds in the amount of \$120,075 to cover the General Obligation School Bond, Series 2012 payment, included in the December accounts payable run.

Thank you!