



West Main Street Realignment Project

August 2009

Overview

The City of Kelso is moving forward with developing a corridor plan for realigning West Main Street between the Allen Street Bridge and Ocean Beach Highway. This area has been the subject of several recent studies aimed at removing the “disconnect” between the Allen Street Bridge and Ocean Beach Highway. This disconnect has contributed to the following issues within the corridor:

- Increased congestion;
- Decreased safety for motorists and pedestrians; and
- An underutilized commercial corridor along Main Street.

The realignment project will refine previous studies and result in corridor improvements that will:

- Realign Main Street to meet Ocean Beach Highway;
- Reduce traffic congestion at major corridor intersections;
- Create a western gateway feature for Kelso with an attractive, cohesive boulevard streetscape that improves pedestrian safety;
- Facilitate future transitional zoning compatible with the City’s Comprehensive Plan;
- Encourage a network of parallel routes, facilitating access management and re-configured intersections; and
- Provide opportunities for revitalization of the commercial corridor along Main Street.



Project Vision

The realignment of Main Street between the Allen Street Bridge and Ocean Beach Highway will reduce congestion between Kelso and Longview, improve safety and mobility for all modes of transportation, and create opportunities for revitalizing West Kelso.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this project will be to build upon previous studies in the selection of a preferred alternative and preparation of a corridor plan as the foundation for advancing the project to preliminary and final design. The corridor plan will define the conceptual roadway improvements for the realignment of West Main Street. This includes affected adjacent streets, stormwater improvements, right of way impacts, and a phasing plan. The corridor plan will provide a recommendation to the City Council for adoption and authorization to proceed to design, with the subsequent preparation of engineered plans for the first of several construction projects.

Public Involvement

Ongoing coordination with a variety of public agencies and community organizations is an important part of the study process. The City of Kelso will approach public involvement and outreach early and throughout the process in an effort to be responsive to the local community and governmental concerns.

In addition, members of the City of Kelso and consultant team will be meeting with representatives from local and state governments as well as private and public entities potentially affected by the study. A Stakeholder / Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) has also been formed to provide a forum for community and local agency involvement.

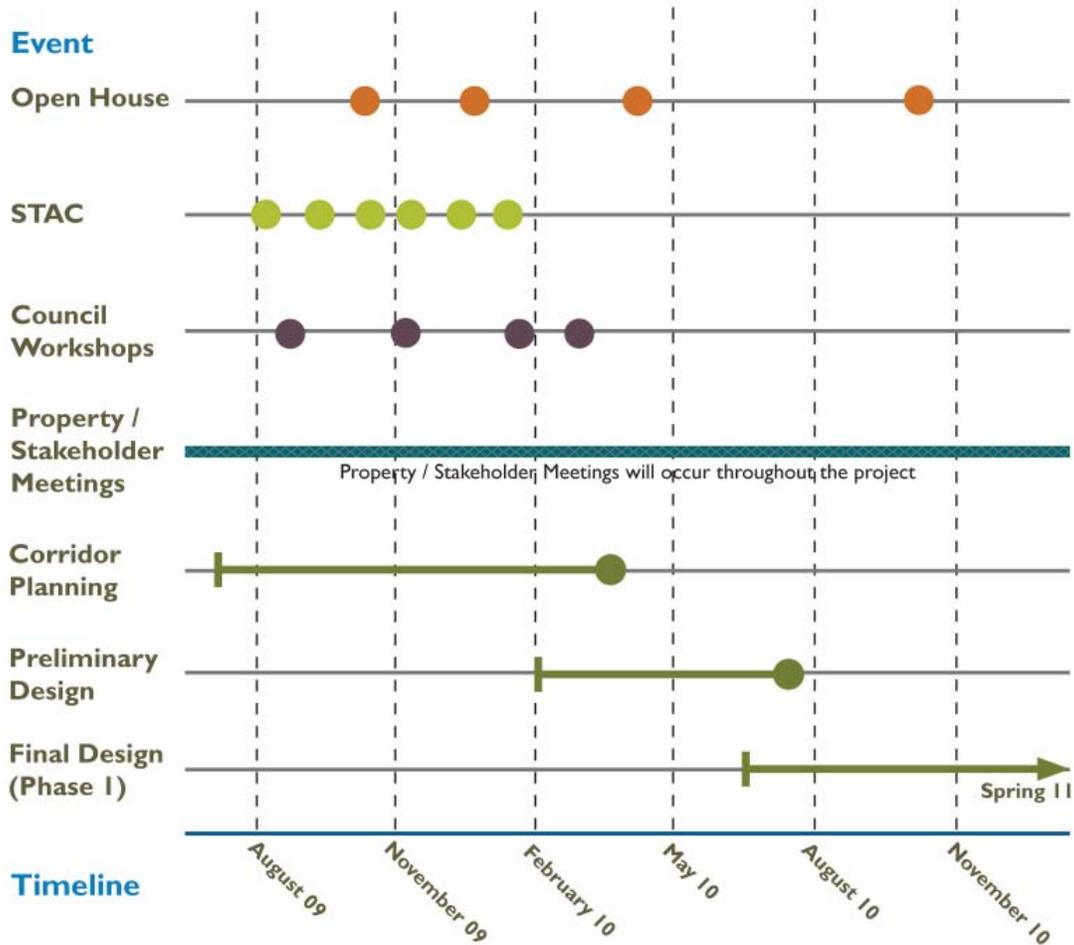
An estimated schedule is shown below. As indicated above, public involvement opportunities and project information will be available throughout development of the project, through a number of means, including:

- Public open houses
- Project information sheets
- Project website updates (www.kelso.gov)
- Regular meetings with the STAC (committee of local stakeholders and agency officials)
- Workshops with City Council members
- One-on-one and focus group meetings with business and property owners along the West Main Street corridor

Project Funding

The project has received an allotment of \$1.8 million of federal funding under the High Priority Project program. An important facet of this phase of project development is identifying and securing additional project funding to complete the project.

West Main Street Realignment Project Schedule



For More Information

If you have questions about the project or would like to provide comments, please contact Al King at (360) 438-2837 or WestMain@Kelso.Gov. Please visit the project website (www.kelso.gov) for the latest on information, public event dates and locations.