

CHESTNUT STREET IMPROVEMENTS

THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT

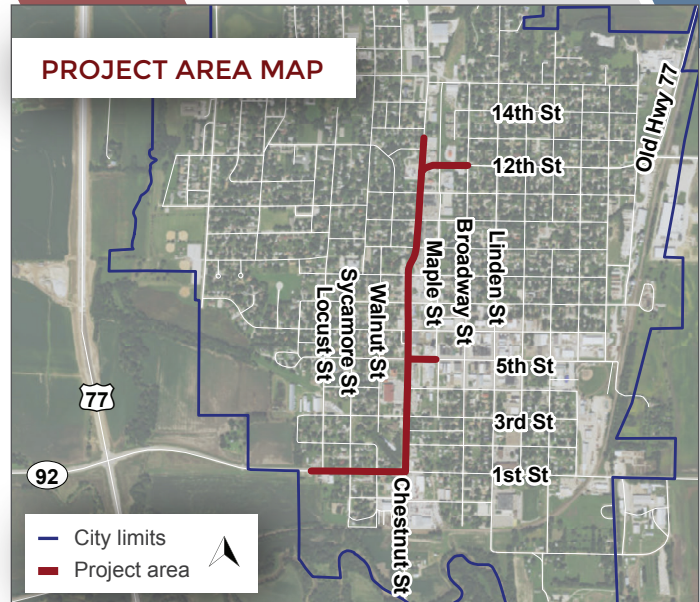


The current Chestnut Street is reaching the end of its serviceable life because of a combination of adverse conditions.

- Chestnut Street’s concrete base, which was constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and multiple asphalt overlays are continually deteriorating.
- Additional temporary fixes, such as asphalt overlays, are no longer feasible. The corridor has been overlaid to a point where areas of pavement surfacing has reached the height of the curb.
- The storm sewer inlets are in need of serious repair or replacement, and the continued overlays have resulted in inadequate curb height and conveyance of storm runoff to the inlets.
- There are water mains, some over 100 years old, within in the corridor that do not have the capacity necessary for proper distribution or fire flow. There have been many water line breaks in recent years, resulting in road closures for repair.
- There are issues with the current roadway involving sight and stopping distances that are not ideal for pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Wahoo has an opportunity to address three critical infrastructure problems in an efficient manner that will last for decades and improve the image of the community.

- Road replacement will also provide a time efficient and cost effective means to simultaneously repair or replace the storm sewer system and water mains to minimize the inconvenience of construction.
- Despite the opening of the US Highway 77/92 Expressway, approximately 6,000 motorists continue to use Chestnut Street each day.
- Along with vitally necessary repairs, Chestnut Street can become an attractive gateway that reflects the pride of our citizens and attract more people to visit our community.
- Paving and infrastructure improvements along the Chestnut Street corridor have been under consideration since 2009.



The existing condition of Chestnut Street is not ideal for vehicle and pedestrian safety



Approximately 6,000 motorists use Chestnut Street each day

Citizen panels have been actively engaged in evaluating and recommending necessary solutions to the City for Chestnut Street.

- A community focus group studied the functionality, service aspects, and aesthetics of Chestnut Street, as well as reviewed and agreed with the City of Wahoo Street Committee's recommendation to completely replace Chestnut Street, including its concrete base because of the street's failing condition and other related deteriorating infrastructure.
- Residents involved in the comprehensive planning process suggest that improving the overall condition of Chestnut Street and its aesthetics would better reflect the community's quality of life.
- A third citizen panel will make recommendations for the intersection of 5th and Chestnut and review existing citizen panel findings to identify a preferred concept to address the best approach for this improvement project.



Photo courtesy of the Wahoo Newspaper

Above: Community members offered comments on possible development along Chestnut Street during the March 2016 "Envision Wahoo" public workshop

Right: The preferred aesthetics alternative of the "Envision Wahoo" focus group and public workshop



Participants of the 2016 Chestnut Street Improvements Community Focus Group

- Glenn Baumert
- Mary Dailey
- Whitney Meyer
- Kevin Scheef
- Erin Simons
- Bob Sloup
- Joe Spicka

Participants of the 2016 Wahoo Comprehensive Plan "Envision Wahoo" Focus Group

- Lisa Brichacek
- Al Grandgenett
- Greg Hohl
- Tracey Johnson
- Stuart Krejci
- Jovan Lausterer
- Steve Sallenbach
- Doug Watts

Through the "Envision Wahoo" focus group and public workshop, community members expressed a desire for:

- Chestnut Street to be welcoming and inviting to both residents and visitors.
- Consistency and cohesiveness along the corridor through streetscape elements (such as light poles and banners) and materials (such as red brick).
- Chestnut Street to have a look that is distinct from downtown and creates the appearance of it being its own corridor through town.