

THE
SCHUYLER AVENUE
STREETSCAPE PLAN

STREETSCAPE OPEN HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the public open house to view the streetscape plan and share ideas.

Event Date: November 15th, 2018 | 5-7pm

Stationed in the 4th floor Auditorium at the Public Library, the Open House was an opportunity to report back what we learned from our new friends in Kankakee and to share the work of the Steering Committee. The Library Auditorium was filled with exhibits, including maps, renderings, photographs and input boards. The evening included a slide show presentation followed by Open House review and input activities. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting.

What is the Schuyler Ave Streetscape Plan and why is it so important?

The area under study is the section along Schuyler Ave between Locust Street to the north and Station Street to the south. This is where folks gather at the Farmers Market and Merchant Street Music Fest; the place to see a movie at the Paramount and then hop across the street for a live concert at the Majestic or hear a talk at the Library. It is a space for shopping and dining while bumping into friends and neighbors. The City is investing in a plan to improve the quality and condition of the street and sidewalks to support this special place in the heart of Downtown Kankakee.



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Sounds expensive... how will we pay for it?

Public infrastructure does come at a price. The City has allocated approximately \$1.5 million from its TIF reserves to fund this project.

Why a bike lane thru downtown?

The City adopted a City-wide [bike plan](#) in 2015. The purpose of the bike plan is to connect Kankakee's destinations by bike, including the Downtown, Riverfront and parks. Schuyler Ave was designated as a street for bike lanes. As such, on-street parking along the east side of Schuyler Ave would be replaced with the space needed to accommodate two separate bike lanes. As the network is built, it has the potential to bring more visitors into the downtown areas. The Zagster docking station located near the Farmers Market are part of this program.

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What we heard from you!

Since the streetscape study began in summer of 2018, we have tracked input from a variety of events and activities including: a [project website](#) with input tool, a booth at the Farmers Market, a community survey and public meeting. Key input and highlights follow below.

We heard that....

- The community loves downtown Kankakee and visit often. The top destinations reported include *shops, restaurants, theaters, Library and farmers market.*
- *Additional shops and restaurants* are an important element to encourage folks to bike or walk along Schuyler Ave.
- *Outdoor dining, seating, trees & plantings and public art* are elements preferred for the Schuyler Avenue streetscape.
- The existing Schuyler Ave *string lighting should be improved and expanded.*
- *Streetscape improvements should extend north and south of Court Street.*
- Downtown *programs and events* such as the Merchant Street Music Fest and Farmers Market should continue and be expanded in downtown.

The Preferred Streetscape Plan

The Streetscape Plan is designed to meet best practices and design standards, as well as to respond to the great comments we have heard throughout the process. The Open House presentation – as well as previous Committee presentations - can be downloaded [here](#).

What's next for Schuyler?

We appreciate everyone's inputs on the plans and will be making final revisions to the documents for contractors to prepare construction cost proposals. The City intends to award the project to a contractor in December. Following the award, construction is anticipated to commence in March 2019 with an expected completion date of July 2019.

Please check the website for updates. Click 'follow' to be notified of upcoming announcements and stay involved!