

STAFF REPORT
for
APRIL 3, 2019 HRC MEETING

Case #: COA2019-025
Staff: Heather M. Bratland

Applicant: Jeffrey Fansler, Department of Transportation
Owner: City of Winston-Salem

LOCATION

District: West End Historic Overlay District
Street: 1100 to 1300 blocks of West Fourth Street (even and odd)
Local Historic
Landmark#: n/a

REQUEST(S)

- Installation of curb extensions and high-visibility cross walks

APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

West End Historic Overlay District Design Review Guidelines
(Please refer to the applicable sections of the *Guidelines*, as detailed in the staff comments.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/ELEMENTS

Please refer to the information provided with the application.

STAFF COMMENTS

West Fourth Street provides access between West First Street and Peters Creek Parkway via a reopened bridge over Salem Parkway (Business 40). Department of Transportation studies have found evidence of speeding, disregard of stop signs, and inadequate sight distances along this stretch of West Fourth Street. This project is designed to calm traffic while maintaining the historic character of the West End.

The application requests approval for the following items:

- 1) Installation of high-visibility crosswalks at the following locations:
 - a. Crossing West Fourth Street on the south side of West First Street
 - b. Crossing Piedmont Avenue where it terminates at West Fourth Street;
 - c. Crossing West Fourth Street both north and south of the intersection with Taylor Street and West End Boulevard; and
 - d. Crossing the junction of Taylor Street and West End Boulevard on the west side of West Fourth Street.
- 2) Installation of curb extensions to narrow travel lanes on West Fourth Street where it intersects with Piedmont Avenue and West End Boulevard/Taylor Street.
- 3) Realignment of the curb at the southwest corner of Piedmont Avenue and West Fourth Street.

STAFF FINDINGS

Commission staff finds that the work is not incongruous with the character of the West End Historic Overlay District because:

- 1) The proposed high visibility crosswalk features include curb ramps, ADA-compliant detectable warning domes in black, and 24" white crosswalk lines alternated with 24" gaps at five (5) crossings. A small amount of granite curbing will be removed to accommodate the sloped curb ramps. The new concrete curb ramps will be tinted to match the surrounding concrete sidewalks. The proposal does not include any crosswalk signage other than the striping, minimizing the visual impact on the West Fourth Street corridor. (*Public Rights-of-Way and Alleys*, West End Guidelines 5 and 9)
- 2) The proposed curb extensions will narrow the travel lanes on West Fourth Street to slow traffic, but they will not require any changes to the existing lines of the roadway or granite curbing. The curb extensions will be located 2' out from the existing gutters to preserve the granite curbing and permit drainage of storm water. The perimeters of the curb extensions will be defined with granite curbing. The curb extensions will be back-filled with dirt to allow for planting of low-maintenance vegetation, such as liriope or another ornamental grass. Where a crosswalk will pass through the curb extension, curb ramps and dome mats will provide a continuous surface with the street. (*Public Rights-of-Way and Alleys*, West End Guidelines 2 and 3)
- 3) The proposed realignment of the curb at the intersection of Piedmont Avenue and West Fourth Street maintains the curvilinear street pattern characteristic of the West End while solving a serious safety problem by creating a more well-defined stop. The existing granite curb will be relocated to the new curb line, and the area inside the curb line will be backfilled and planted with low-maintenance vegetation. A new section of matching sidewalk will connect the existing sidewalk to the new crosswalk. (*Public Rights-of-Way and Alleys*, West End Guideline 4)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the preceding findings, staff recommends that the Commission approve COA2019-025 at the 1100 to 1330 blocks of West Fourth Street (odd and even) within the West End Historic Overlay District, with the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant shall receive, prior to commencement of the work, all other required permits or permissions from governmental agencies;
- 2) Commission staff shall review and approve any revisions or deviations to any portion of the as-submitted work, that qualifies as a minor work, prior to commencement of that portion of the project; and
- 3) The applicant shall submit the *Certificate of Appropriateness Request for Certification of Completed Work* and photo documentation of the completed project to HRC staff within ten (10) days of its completion.