

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is paying for the Mitchell Street improvements?

Answer: **The project is being funded through a combination of local, state, and federal public works programs.** Approximately \$6 million will be invested in the new public infrastructure along 1.5 miles of Mitchell Street. Local funds are derived from existing DDA tax increment financing revenue and the Cadillac Utilities Fund. Every locally generated \$1 will leverage approximately \$5 in state and federal funds. The MDOT Cadillac Transportation Service Center also applied for a Transportation Enhancement grant and received \$871,185 toward the project.

2. Why make changes?

Answer: **To create a safer and more beautiful downtown Cadillac. Planned improvements are anticipated to calm the speed of traffic, advance the ease and safety of pedestrian circulation, and further enrich the downtown's visual appearance. The changes are designed to enhance the downtown shopping experience by creating a retail friendly environment highly attractive to residents and guests.** Underground infrastructure will also be updated, which is decades old. The investment in our public infrastructure will ensure an updated district that is attractive to future business and growth.

3. Will Mitchell Street be closed?

Answer: **By and large, Mitchell Street will remain open and accessible throughout the project.** The goal is to maintain two-way movement on Mitchell Street throughout the construction period. However, there will be one main period where Mitchell Street will be temporarily closed to through traffic. This will occur from April 6 to May 8 (weather dependent) and affect Mitchell Street from Granite to Chapin Streets. Local traffic will be allowed to access businesses as necessary, while through traffic will be routed to nearby side streets (the Granite to Lake to Chapin Street detour will be available.)

4. What is being planned?

Answer: **Physical changes include street reconstruction, landscaped entrances to the downtown, sidewalk extensions (bumpouts) at street intersections, enhanced pedestrian crosswalk markings, additional lighting and landscaping, improved signalization, and replacement of underground utilities.**

5. Will Mitchell Street sidewalks be closed during construction?

Answer: **Generally, sidewalks will remain open throughout the construction period.** There may be brief disruptions or temporary closures of certain sidewalk segments due to underground utility work, construction of crosswalks, etc. These will be held to a minimum and alternative pedestrian routes will be provided.

6. How long is construction going to last?

Answer: **The goal is to complete construction by fall 2009.** Minor landscaping will be held over to the following spring to ensure proper plant growth.

7. What are people doing still parking on Mitchell Street during the project, but will also be encouraged to park in the public lots behind downtown storefronts with new signage. During Phase 2 of the project, when one side of Mitchell Street is being rebuilt, the opposite side will be open, including the on-street parking! Additionally, several downtown businesses have agreed to serve as public pass-throughs during the project. Signs will be placed in the alleys at these businesses' back doors, inviting customers to walk through, even if their final destination is next door or across the street. A special thank-you goes out to our businesses that have volunteered to be designated as public pass-throughs.