

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☐ Vote/Action Requested  
☒ Discussion or Presentation Only  
☐ Public Hearing  
Report Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Voting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Community Development **Presenter(s) & Title:** Bethany Watson  
City Engineer

**Agenda Item Title:**

Discussion on East Main Street Pedestrian Crossing Project

**Summary:**

See attached memo.

**Budget Implications:**

Budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Total Cost of Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Check if Estimated ☐

Fund Source: General Fund ☐ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Staff Recommendations:****Reviews:**

Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Attachments:**

Memo  
Concept  
Cost Estimate



# Memorandum

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Bethany Watson, P.E., AICP, City Engineer  
**CC:** Billy Peppers, City Manager  
**Date:** January 27, 2026  
**Re:** East Main Street History and Update

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This memo provides a history of the East Main Street Pedestrian Crossing Project.

Driven by the City's commitment to pedestrian safety and identified as a high-priority project in the Transportation Master Plan, this initiative originally explored mid-block crosswalk connectivity in downtown Canton.

In March 2023, Practical Design Partners (PDP) proposed a study of sight distances and a conceptual crossing between Britt and Muriel Streets. Following the concept phase, the City conducted surveying and public outreach. At a public meeting on July 6, 2023, residents expressed both support and significant opposition.

Staff findings indicated that 30% of directly affected property owners favored the project, 40% were opposed, and 30% were indifferent. While the majority of residents who would use the infrastructure supported it, feedback from property owners was mixed, with those opposed being extremely vocal.

The project was presented at the City Council Retreat in October 2023. On October 26, 2023, the Mayor and City Council officially decided to terminate the East Main Street Pedestrian Crossing Project.

Recently, residents have requested that the project be resurrected. If the project moves forward, staff anticipate challenges during the easement acquisition phase. If property owners are unwilling to grant easements, the City may be unable to complete the project without pursuing condemnation.

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