

**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

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.
