

GREG OLIVER | THE JOURNAL

Clint Rigsby, of Seamon Whiteside & Associates, of Greenville, shows Dot Yandle, a resident in the Calhoun community of Clemson, some proposed designs for the Streetscape project.

Clemson

Streetscape project set to begin in early May

BY GREG OLIVER
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CLEMSON — The downtown Streetscape project encompassing the side streets of College Avenue as well as the Calhoun area, set to begin in early May, is showing some definite signs of moving forward.

Clemson Assistant City Administrator Andy Blondeau said Wednesday that streetlight bids for Phase I are due March 31 while signage component bids are due April 25.

"Staff will recommend all contracts May 2, and construction should start 10 days from that point," Blondeau said.

Blondeau added there would be an opportunity for those impacted by the project to meet the contractor hired during that 10-day period.

Although College Avenue features pavers, benches and trees as the result of a beautification project conducted several years ago, the latest Streetscape announced in October was to consist of three zones — Zone 1, from Keith Street to S.C. Highway 93; Zone 2, from Keith Street to Tiger Boulevard; and Zone 3, consisting of the Calhoun District.

But the more than $2-million project was later budgeted for four years instead of three, with the downtown portion divided into two phases, lessening the number of right of way issues.

The first zone now includes Zone 1B, featuring Keith Street, Earle Street and McCollum Street.

Zone 1B will seek to provide angled parking and sidewalks to make it more pedestrian friendly.

"The downtown is the heart and soul — particularly with a small city," said Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy, adding that $650,000, the cost for the initial phase, "sounds like a bargain to me."

While kiosks and art proposed as part of the downtown area improvements were not figured into the costs, city officials said they would seek grant funding.

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