Clemson looks toward next phase of Streetscape

BY GREG OLIVER
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CLEMSON — Now that the initial phase of a four-year Streetscape project is nearly complete, city officials are looking to the future.

Clemson City Administrator Rick Cotton said the next phase will be different than the work scheduled to be finished by late December. The next project will provide angled parking and sidewalks on Keith, Earle and McCollum streets in order to make them more pedestrian friendly.

Later this month, Cotton said City Engineer Kent Guthrie and Utilities Director Benjie McGill will finalize utility plans and conduct a walk-through with all parties involved.

There will be a Nov. 8 meeting with downtown merchants impacted by Phase 1B, and the city will receive a cost proposal from Town and Country Contractors by Feb. 3. The total project budget is to be reviewed by Clemson City Council on Feb. 20, with final approval coming as early as March 5.

Construction is scheduled to begin May 16, the day after Clemson University's graduation.

"We're moving ahead with this schedule and will stick to it very closely," Cotton said.

The more than $2 million project will 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.

It is budgeted over four years.

Council member J.C. Cook asked what has been done to address concerns by a few downtown merchants. Cotton said that would ultimately be determined by City Council, but pointed to the quality of work performed by Town and Country during the first phase.

"Those with questions don't have to walk too far to see the difference," Cotton said.

Council member Tim Fowler said he has heard mostly positive comments on portions of the Streetscape project completed so far.

"Most people think that it looks really good," Fowler said.

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