Clemson to unveil street plan

Public input welcome at meeting tonight

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The word charette is defined as an intense period of design activity, and that is exactly what has been taking place in the Clemson City Hall Community Room this week.

A two-day charette began Tuesday in which the city's streetscape design architects met with business owners and residents from three zones where downtown revitalization will begin next summer and continue for the two following summers. Those zones consist of Zone 1, from Keith Street to S.C. Highway 93; Zone 2, from Keith Street to Tiger Boulevard; and Zone 3, the Calhoun district.

"We will identify the portions of work to take place from May to Sept. 1," said Assistant City Administrator Andy Blondeau. "We're not going to tear up anything that can't be done during that time."

Blondeau said signage improvements would begin from Keith Street to S.C.

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PLAN: Meeting tonight

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Highway 93 and also feature utility work.

"Overall, we've got a 'kit of parts' downtown that includes decorative pavers, street lights and such and will install similar elements on side streets on College Avenue," Blondeau said. "We will also look at commercial sanitation issues and signage."

Blondeau said no work would take place on Calhoun or the S.C. 133 railroad bridge area until the bridge replacement project, which has yet to begin, is completed.

The assistant city administrator said design work sessions will take place during the day today and, from 4 to 6 p.m., a master plan progress meeting for all zones is scheduled.

"This meeting will last approximately two hours with the official (design) unveiling based on all the feedback expressed during the charette process," he said.

"The purpose is to see what has been developed so far and identify any potential pitfalls."

Blondeau said that even after today, meetings between property owners, merchants and residents would be held as often as necessary.

"This is going to be the starting point," Blondeau said.

The new community meeting room is in the lower level of City Hall, to the entrance left of utility billing.

IF YOU GO

What: Master Plan Progress – Open House for Downtown Business Streetscape Design
When: From 4-6 p.m. today
Where: Community Meeting Room at Clemson City Hall
Details: Seamon Whiteside Associates will present concepts for projects in three zone areas (Zone 1, from Keith Street to S.C. Highway 93; Zone 2, from Keith Street to Tiger Boulevard; and Zone 3, the Calhoun district) to take place starting in summer of 2011 and continuing for two summers thereafter.

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