

Clemson's Streetscape project undergoing twists, turns

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Change has seemingly been the only constant when it comes to the city of Clemson's Streetscape project.

Phase 1-A, which began in May with plans to conclude about the time Clemson University students return for classes in late August, has experienced its share of work order changes during the past few months.

"It's (project) going well, but every time we stick a shovel in the ground, we break something," Assistant City Administrator Andy Blondeau told Clemson City Council in his report Monday night.

Taking care of those changes, many of which involve hidden pipes and conduits, isn't cheap. City Council on Monday night approved \$150,000 worth of change orders although the total amount estimated so far is \$130,000.

Blondeau said any leftover funds would be applied toward Phase 1-B, the second phase of the project, next summer.

The money would be spent on sidewalks, utility conduit, landscaping, fencing and storm water management.

"We're proposing to use TIF (Tax Increment Finance) money not used this year for mast arm traffic signals and the like to get

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these projects done since some of these were not in the scope of the original project," he said.

Among the 20 change order items added during the contract, the 12 remaining items to be funded include a change order to remove the sewer line distance at Earle Street and Daniel Drive area; removing asphalt and street print and substituting with pavers on Sloan Street, a sidewalk for the Wells Fargo parking lot on Earle Street; and brick paver pressure washing on College Avenue. In addition, a kiosk will be installed at the site of the new Tower Place condominium — the first of several locations planned throughout the city.

Blondeau added that a large fix list of repairs was required for College Avenue in an effort to enhance that area with the other areas of the city where improvements are taking place.

"When you do all these new things, it's going to make that area look old," Blondeau said. "We wanted to clean and freshen up that area through pressure washers and clean or replace trash cans and enclose areas where trash roll carts and/or Dumpsters are located."

He said the additional work should be completed by the Sept. 1 deadline set by the city to avoid coinciding with Clemson home football season.

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Despite work order changes, resulting in additional work in some cases, city of Clemson officials insist that Phase 1-A of the Streetscape project will be completed later this summer.

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