

Residents get look at first phase of greenway plan

BY NORM CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Local residents got a look at the initial phase of the highly anticipated downtown greenway project during a drop-in Thursday at the Walhalla Depot.

About two dozen people turned out to see the drawings, ask questions and provide public comment that will be accepted through Nov. 3.

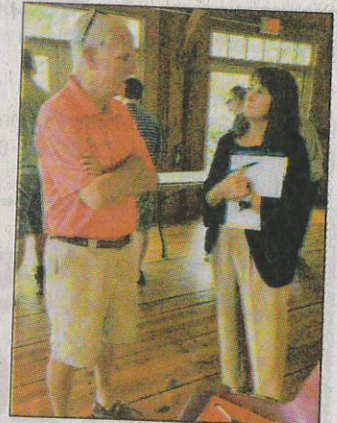
City administrator Brandon Burton said the first phase would run along South Broad Street from Coffee Road to South Catherine Street. It would have a walking and biking trail with public art and interactive features.

David Harding, project manager with Goodwin Mills Cawood of Greenville, said this phase is likely to take four months to complete once construction starts and is designed to focus on downtown.

"It's just showcasing downtown Walhalla, bringing people here locally," he said. "It's really going to be emphasizing just bringing in the surrounding communities and bringing people to Main Street and enjoying life in downtown Walhalla."

Main Street Walhalla executive director Libby Imbody said the project will "expand our downtown."

"Our downtown is ready to grow, and it will give us a greater perimeter," she said. "It's going to increase walkability and pedestrian activity downtown, which is going to benefit our small businesses, retailers and our restaurants. It's something that people in the neighborhoods can use, it will draw tourism and it's something that will



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Walhalla Mayor Danny Edwards talks with Arlene Young, grant services consultant for the S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments, during a drop-in Thursday at the Walhalla Depot to look at plans for the first phase of the greenway project in downtown Walhalla.

excited to see what they start doing on the other side (North Broad) going up to the performing arts center."

Jane Harris called it "beautiful."

"I love it," she said. "It's going to add so much to the area."

Mayor Danny Edwards called the project "a quality of life issue."

"I think it's going to add so much to Walhalla," he said. "I think our citizens, families are going to really enjoy it. This really looks good."

City councilman Keith Pace said he is looking forward to completion of all phases, noting the greenway will come by the front of his home.

"It's exciting that we're finally getting it started," he said. "I applaud all these folks being here to give their input, too. I just want to see it finished, the whole loop. This will be the grapevine of Walhalla."

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