



**Rodney Street Project, Phase II 9th to Helena Ave.
Public Questions and Answers
April 17 – May 28, 2021**

1. So what is happening to the trees along Rodney St during this reconstruction project?
Wholesale removal or selective removal?
 - a. We are removing trees as required or as directed by the arborist. Healthy trees that are not impacting the design will remain. Most trees are being replanted. A diagram of the status of each tree is located in the presentation slides on the project website.
2. Just a little information for your planning process, the city replaced the curb in front of their home just a few years ago and it is in good shape. This property owner financed the new curb and is still paying on it. How will this be resolved if it is replaced by the City as part of this project?
 - a. If existing sidewalk is in good condition, meets current City standards, and conforms with the new design it will remain in place.
3. I'm glad that the city is updating Rodney Street in one of the oldest neighborhoods of our town, and I look forward to seeing the changes in phase 1, as I use this arterial frequently.

After looking at the proposed plans, I wonder why the intersection at Rodney and 11th Avenue is not designed as a round-about. While I realize that this is an unusual, oval-shaped intersection due to the alignment of 11th Avenue, I urge you to consider making this a round-about. I also realize that there is limited space in this intersection, however, one could propose a round-about as a traffic calming device between these two arterials. This intersection takes substantial traffic, especially in the morning hours as children are driven to the schools in the area (Central, Helena Middle School, and Helena High School). 11th Avenue serves as a major arterial from the westside of town to the Capitol area and other retail areas on the eastside. Due to the inconvenience of this intersection, many people avoid it with the result of 11th Avenue being under-utilized in favor of Broadway to the south and Lyndale to the north.

Many children pass through this intersection due to its' proximity to schools and traffic can often times speed through. The traffic signals at this intersection seem to favor 11th Avenue, which adds a certain inconvenience to traveling on Rodney, which is one of the few north-south arterials in Helena and is used heavily.

Round-abouts have been proven to greatly reduce the severity of traffic accidents due to their traffic-calming qualities and save on precious energy by eliminating the need for traffic signals and idling of cars. The Helena City Commission has proclaimed Helena to be an energy-conscious community, and round-abouts contribute to this timely consciousness.

Please seriously consider changing the Rodney/11th Avenue intersection to a round-about at this opportune time when you are planning its reconstruction of this area.

- a. We did look into this. There is not enough right of way at this intersection.
4. Did you ever hear back from the City Arborist with the list of approved trees?



- a. Yes. The two types are Prairie Expedition "Lewis and Clark" American Elm and Bur Oak.
5. Currently there is no "driveway" curb, only "regular" curb, in front of our house at 515 N Rodney. When the curbs get replaced, would it be possible to designate a section for "driveway" curb? If so, when and how would I communicate that information?
 - a. If there is an existing driveway that doesn't have a driveway curb, then we can put in a new driveway curb. However, if a driveway doesn't currently exist, this project will not install new driveway curb.
6. The presentation showed that the 3 mature trees in our boulevard were to remain. Is there any provision within the scope of this project that will trim or thin branches that are unsightly, dangerous, or otherwise unhealthy for the trees? I've been told in the past that the City maintains these trees, but I also know that staff is very busy with emergency arboreal maintenance.
 - a. We will check with the arborist.
7. I have underground sprinklers in my yard. How will that be impacted?
 - a. Any impacted irrigation systems will be put back as it was. No new systems will be installed, other than the new service line running the length of the sidewalk.
8. My sewer line between the boulevard and the house needs replacement. Can we coordinate with the contractor to possibly save some money for replacing it as property owners?
 - a. If it is from your property line to your house, that is not covered under the City's project. The property owner would have to coordinate with the contractor themselves. The City will notify the residents who the contractor is once that contract is awarded.
9. There are a significant number of trees to be removed/replaced (compared to those that stay) on slides #8 and 9 of the presentation, especially pertaining to the trees on the even numbered side of the street. With 28 trees removed/replaced on slide #8 and 18 on slide #9, the aesthetics of the boulevard will be significantly altered. There will also be a large section of the boulevard without any established trees. Most of these trees are labeled as replaced due to design. Can you explain why a much larger number of trees need to be removed/replaced on these slides and how the tree replacement relates to the design?
 - a. You are correct that in comparison to the rest of the project area, this section has more tree replacements. It's due to a variety of reasons. The location of the utilities, the connection to side streets, sidewalk heaving, and the health of the trees.
10. Since the boulevard noted on these slides will retain very few established trees, will homeowners have the option to provide additional funding to purchase larger trees if desired? Or would the homeowner have the option to purchase a larger, arborist approved tree to use as the replacement?
 - a. We will talk to an arborist about this and see what sizes are available. The initial plan was to go with 2" diameter trunks but that may change based on availability.