

Council asks for more funding for Front Street

October 8, 2022



In an effort to rebuild even more of Front Street, the city council in Crescent City voted unanimously to request \$515,000 from the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission.

If the funding is received, City Manager Eric Weir said it will move the city a step closer to finishing the upgrades to Front Street.

The city rebuilt about half the street in 2021 and has plans to completely rebuild the street from Highway 101 to where it ends. Front Street runs along Beach Front Park and is a heavily used street for those visiting the park or coming to downtown Crescent City.

“This is another opportunity in regard to Front Street,” Weir told the council. “The western half, as you all have experienced, is in much better shape. The other half still remains an opportunity or a challenge.”

Weir said Crescent City has worked for many years to rebuild Front Street, but after a series of delays, momentum is on the side of the city.

“Front Street has been the top transportation priority for the city for decades,” Weir said. “It’s always been a little bit out of reach. Now that isn’t the case. We have finished half of it, and we have funding from the council for that next section.”

The second section, which is from G Street to I Street is being funded through Measure S funds and some leftover COVID funding to the city. The \$2.2 million section is funded.

The third section, from I Street to K Street is estimated to cost \$1.4 million, with \$1.6 million from Play to K Street and the final section estimated at \$1.2 million.

“This part will be out to bid this winter,” Weir said in regards to the second section of the road. “Our hope is it will be out to bid in January.”

Weir said the entire remaining work will cost \$6.6 million.

“The idea was the design the whole process, and we could begin to apply for grants. That is now happening.”

The section from I Street to Play Street got a boost when Congressman Jared Huffman visited the city and saw the work already completed and got a presentation on the city’s plans for Front Street.

“We have a shovel ready project. It can be built in the time frame,” Weir said. “Congressman Huffman decided to include it in his appropriations. At this point, we feel it has a strong chance to be funded.”

Huffman agreed to ask from \$750,000 from Community Project Funding. The city then learned of another opportunity when roadwork previously approved through the Del Norte Transportation Commission received funding elsewhere, opening \$515,000 to be used locally.

“This CRRSSA funding is now available to us on a local level,” Weir said. “It is about half a million dollars. You put that with the Community Project Funding, we are extremely close. So close, you go ahead and design and bid it as an alternate and see where the chips fall. You might be close enough to build that next piece.”

Weir said he was asking the council for formally request the funding from the local commission.

“I like it, but I’m ready to start seeing some shovels in the ground on Front Street, soon,” Councilman Beau Smith said.

Weir agreed, saying the city was in the process of receiving materials for the next phase, with work to begin early in 2023.

“Once we bid it, we can hand them materials and hopefully they can go to work,” Weir said.

The council voted 3-0 to request the funding with Mayor Jason Greenough and Councilman Blake Inscore absent.

