

MAKE THE MILE

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Update for City Council – December 2023

The Mason Mile project is a community led, market driven project. We are honoring our history while building into the future a fresh, healthy, and sustainable place for people to live, work and play. The Mason Mile Project has a core team of volunteers that consists of David Charpentier, Annie Droege, and Chris Heim. Kacey Richards, and Sherry Taylor.

Phase 1 work for the Mason Mile project began in April 2019 when a community engagement process was initiated to broaden visioning from beyond just business owners to include the greater community at large. Meetings to present findings to the City of Mason government were underway in March 2020 when unfortunately, the planning efforts were put on hold due to the pandemic.

The Mason Mile project efforts picked back up with phase two in April 2021 with a volunteer team of residents through the MADE CDC.

In January 2022, efforts to build a funding partnership between the City of Mason and MADE CDC began to support the four-phase recommended approach by the MADE CDC which would position the organization as the coordinating agent for the duration of the project. By May 2022, legislation was presented to City Council that was recommended by the Downtown Committee of Council to award a \$180,000 grant to MADE CDC to complete phase two and begin work on phase three of their four phase approach. The legislation was signed in August 2022, a consulting team was identified to support those efforts and was brought on board in October 2022. The consulting team consists of Randall Gross from Randall Gross Development Economics, Jay Becker from BLDG Brands, and Keith Covington from Common Ground Urban Design and Planning. Efforts did not officially kick off until December 2022.

After a year of work by countless people, we are here tonight to share that the reports are almost finalized. There will be two reports available to the public – one will be a full report, and another will be an executive summary of the full report.

The consulting team has recommended a roll out to the public in Q1 2024, so our team will begin planning for that event to thank partners for all the work that has been done over the past year and provide ways the community can continue to play a role in advancing the progress of the Mason Mile.

Prior to the public rollout, MADE CDC will be conducting meetings with the Project Advisory Council, as well as the appropriate leaders from the City to discuss proposed next steps and identify areas for meaningful engagement and partnership as we continue in this next phase of work.

On behalf of all the volunteers and partners within the Mason Mile project, we want to wrap up this year by extending our sincerest gratitude. Without the funding partnership agreement with the City, we wouldn't be in such a strong, collaborative position to now begin taking action on all of the ideas that have come from our community.