

BPAC Oct 2020 Draft Communication to Council

- **Dedicated, Separate Bike Facility** – BPAC encourages the City to weigh the substantial safety and efficiency benefits of adding a dedicated, separated bike facility to the corridor against the inconvenience of removing some under-utilized parking spaces. A protected bike lane helps bike riders, especially those who are newer to biking and/or biking with young children, feel safe continuing their trip into Springfield and taking advantage of our many local businesses. It minimizes the potential conflict between people riding and people driving as well as between bicycle riders and pedestrians on the wide sidewalk on the south side of the street. Adding traffic calming will not solve the existing problem and make this segment accessible to all users.
- **Community Priority** - Improvements to West D Street and the Northbank Path are a clear community priority and have been for a long time. It is great that there is support for improving this area as a gateway to Springfield that is safe, inviting, and welcoming to our community. Improving this connection encourages Springfield residents and visitors to continue their trip throughout the city, support local businesses, and use the transportation option of their choice.
- **West D Street is Key Regional Connection** - West D Street serves as a vital corridor for active transportation between Springfield and Eugene. For the majority of trips across the metro area, it is the most direct routing and utilizes the existing Northbank Path. It also connects the Northbank Path with Island Park. Making sure that people are comfortable on West D Street is essential to making the connection between the existing path infrastructure, downtown, and the rest of Springfield.
- **Robust Public Engagement** - BPAC encourages the City of Springfield to take time to complete a robust public engagement process and consider a range of design options that will take into account the needs of all users. In order to respond to the public comments at the August BPAC meeting and this request from BPAC, BPAC encourages the City Council to direct staff to evaluate a dedicated, separate bike facility that would require the removal of some current on-street parking.
- **Benefits of Walking and Biking** - Encouraging bike and pedestrian transportation has many community benefits including: improving health by increasing cardiovascular exercise, reducing vehicle congestion and associated emissions, and providing a transportation option for community members who do not have access to a personal motor vehicle.
- **Enhance Livability, Health, and Economic Vitality** - These improvements are an important investment and we want to ensure that the City fully leverages the investments to enhance the livability, health and economic vitality of the City of Springfield. This investment in infrastructure is especially important as our community responds to and recovers from the health, economic, and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.