



**To:** Members of Dublin City Council  
**From:** Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager  
**Date:** December 31, 2019  
**Initiated By:** Matt Earman, Director of Parks and Recreation  
**Re:** Information Only – Community Development Committee Update Regarding South High Street

## Background

On Tuesday December 10, 2019, staff met with the Community Development Committee, Council Member De Rosa and Vice Mayor Amorose Groomes, on South High Street in the Historic District to gather information regarding the vision of the future streetscape.

Following the site visit, the Committee and staff met at City Hall to discuss the information and to provide staff with insight and direction. Council Member Reiner was not able to be present for the site visit, however, he phoned in for the discussion.

The main takeaways from the meeting were represented basically by three phases.

### Phase I – “Treescape” Plan for South High Street

There was discussion and consensus among the Committee to move this specific phase forward as soon as possible, with the idea that we would invest in planting larger trees in the immediate time frame. The discussion regarding the relocation of utility lines led to the opinion they would be relocated prior to any conflict with the larger trees. In order to accommodate this decision, it was requested that staff provide additional information to determine the preferred species such as:

- Recommendation of 3-4 species for the desired effect
- Evaluation and report on the condition of the existing trees currently along the street with estimated life span
- Conduct a current soil volume analysis and compare variances with desired soil volume for preferred species
- Research options and provide recommendations to achieve preferred soil volume levels (i.e.: Silva Cells, jutting curb into parking spaces, etc.)
- Estimate costs and pros/cons associated with options

### South High Street Phase II – Landscaping

There was discussion regarding the general landscape conditions primarily on the west side of South High Street which included inconsistencies that needed to be addressed:

- Existing stone walls could be increased in length to accommodate additional seating areas and aesthetic landscaping opportunities
- Downspouts are currently discharging directly into mulched beds creating erosion problems
- Inconsistent landscape standards throughout

Staff has several ideas that could resolve many of these issues that will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting. These too will have cost estimations associated with the options that will be further researched based on the preferences.

### **Phase III – Long Term Plan/Policy for all Urban Streets throughout the City**

It was the desire of the Committee to develop more specific policies regarding the current Street Tree Code, to include an additional component that would address urban environments. The following was requested of staff for further discussion:

- Recommendation of 12 desired urban species (6 that are more than 40' crown diameter and 6 that are fewer than 40' diameter)
- Minimum soil volume requirements for each species
- Minimum spacing requirements for each species
- Soil and planting specifications
- Pruning height requirements as to not conflict with pedestrian/bicycle/vehicle traffic
- Clarify the general statements currently in the Code regarding the diversity and uniformity of streetscapes throughout the City. Currently, the code can be interpreted differently depending on how it is read

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee requested that these items be researched with the information gathered for further discussion at the next meeting. The Committees findings and recommendations will ultimately be brought before Council as a whole for approval.

### **Recommendation**

Information Only.