

Posted January 5, 2016 - 3:15pm

## **Sherman moving forward with next phase of Streetscape project**



CHRIS JENNINGS / HERALD DEMOCRAT Sidewalks east of Downtown Sherman on Houston and Lamar Streets will see improvements as part of the next phase of the city's Streetscape project.

**By William C. Wadsack  
Herald Democrat**

The first step in the second phase of the Downtown Sherman Streetscape project will soon get underway as the Sherman City Council approved a contract for design work on the project Monday.

Huitt-Zollars Inc. will be handling the design of the next phase of the Streetscape project, as well as pedestrian improvements on Grand Avenue at East Richards Street, East Williams Street, East College Street and East Carter Street, after Sherman received a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.

“In the summer of last year, the city of Sherman applied for a Transportation Alternatives Program grant from TxDOT,” Clay Barnett, director of public works and engineering, said during Monday’s council meeting. “We received that grant late last year and at this time are moving forward with the design, though there are still some details to work out with TxDOT. But we’ll go ahead and get the design done and work through those details as they arise.”

The city included \$150,000 in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program for the design, and as local match funds for the estimated \$550,000 Streetscape project. The Capital Improvement Program also had \$60,000 earmarked for the first phase of the Grand Avenue Pedestrian Improvements project. Barnett said by grouping the Streetscape and Grand Avenue projects together for design work, the city was able to save on costs.

The Streetscape project will see the replacement of sidewalks on Houston Street from Montgomery Street to Throckmorton Street and on Lamar Street from Walnut Street to Throckmorton Street. On those two sides of Highway 56, 39,800 square feet of existing sidewalk will be removed and replaced with 68,400 square feet of new sidewalk. The new sidewalk will be 10-feet wide on each side of the street. The project will also see 14 handicap ramps installed, 60 trees planted and eight railroad crossings for pedestrians created.

The council also received a quarterly progress report on the Sherman Economic Development Corp. from Board Chairman Willie Steele and President John Plotnik. Steele touted SEDCO's business retention and expansion program, noting the organization had made 22 different visits to local industries since the program started. He also said that in the past several months SEDCO has made final incentive payments to Tyson Fresh Meats and Texas Instruments for large expansion projects.

"Those are two that have been going on several years and they've now completed and have fulfilled their requirements," Steel said. "At present, SEDCO is working 18 active projects with an estimated \$370 million in investments and 1,934 new jobs. That's the whole of projects that we're working on. We're probably not going to get all those, but that just gives you an idea of the volume of the projects that we're looking at."

A resolution was also approved concerning the Greater Texoma Utility Authority's intention to contract for [construction of a new elevated storage tank](#) in southwest Sherman. GTUA is awarding the \$2.352 million contract for the construction of the elevated storage tank to Landmark Structures.

"We think we've got a really good bid from the low bidder," Mark Gibson, director of utilities, said. "It comes in about \$477,000 below the estimated cost. The tank itself will allow us to do some repairs to the Gallagher Street tank. It will also provide for future growth to the south and southwest."

The storage tank will hold 1.5 million gallons and is expected to take about 15 months to complete, which Gibson noted was the shortest time period estimated in any bid for the work.

A resolution to extend the Sherman Chamber of Commerce's tourism contract with the city through the end of January was also approved. Sherman plans to [combine the responsibilities](#) of the tourism department with those of the Main Street Program once it finds the right person to oversee the two programs. The city learned in October it had been chosen by the Texas Historical Commission as a new entry in the 2016 Texas Main Street Program and decided to marry that program with Visit Sherman, the tourism department overseen by the Chamber, to unify management responsibilities.

The council also gave city staff permission to apply for a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that would allow the purchase of five Power-LOAD cot fastening systems that would be used in Sherman Fire Department ambulances.

- See more at: <http://heralddemocrat.com/news/local/sherman-moving-forward-next-phase-streetscape-project#sthash.iSxj9jpU.ZfRMz6ym.dpuf>