



Streetscape *Finally* Gets into Full Swing!

by Donna R. Maurillo

The light at the end of the Downtown Reconstruction tunnel may be distant, but at least it's coming into view. Up until now, nearly all the work has

been confined to replacing underground utilities, which means that progress hasn't been readily apparent. However, it was very essential work that had to be completed before repairs could be made above ground. For your information, the City has provided a summary of what has been accomplished since last August (see sidebar).

From this point onward, the City's reconstruction progress will be more visible, since it involves replacement of street paving, sidewalks, and streetscape elements — trees, planters, benches, and the like. Here's what you can expect in the coming weeks:

■ **On April 14, the City Council selected Granite Construction** to provide services for the Streetscape phase. Their low bid of \$4,606,500 was almost \$200,000 under budget. In the same session, the Council voted for a work schedule recommended by most downtown merchants who thought that customers would prefer completion at the earliest possible

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date. This allows reconstruction to proceed in earnest throughout the summer months — the traditional construction season — so complete access to downtown will be available by early December. One of the work schedules considered by the City would have required reconstruction to suspend during the holiday shopping season, resume in January 1993, and be completed next spring.

■ **The following schedule has been planned for Streetscape work:**

May 4 until early September: Pacific Avenue between Cathcart and Church Streets

May 4 until early July: Front Street near the Post Office and the Veterans' Building

Early June until early September: The east side of Pacific Avenue between Laurel and Maple Streets

Late June until early September: The east side of Pacific Avenue between Maple and Cathcart Streets

Early September until Thanksgiving: Pacific Avenue between Church and Water Streets; and the west side of Pacific Avenue between Laurel and Cathcart Streets

Mid-September until early December: All trees planted

■ **Phase 1A underground utilities reconstruction will be completed** by the time *Business Santa Cruz* is published. Phase 1B underground work on the east side of Pacific Avenue between Laurel and Cathcart Streets (Haber's, Metro Center, etc.) also will be completed by this date. Work will then move to the west side of Pacific Avenue (Zachary's, Catalyst, etc.), and then to a small section of Elm and Maple Streets. This will be the final stage of all underground utilities work. Pacific Bell and PG&E have been coordinating their utilities upgrades with the reconstruction schedule in order to minimize impact on downtown business.

■ **Demolition of the Trust Building earlier this month** allowed Phase 1A underground utilities work to be completed on Soquel Avenue and Cooper Street. The City determined that the building was irreparably damaged by fire and could not be retrofitted, as the owners originally had intended.

■ **Streetscape work is being scheduled in stages** to minimize impact on downtown businesses and shoppers. This is how the work will progress:

Sidewalks in each stage (see above schedule) will be demolished and utility extensions will be installed between the curb and the face of each building. Pedestrians will be detoured into the street, which will be closed to vehicular traffic. Building entryways will remain open so business will not be disrupted.

New sidewalks will be poured. As soon as the concrete is set, pedestrians will be allowed to use them.

During non-business hours, new sidewalks will be poured at building entryways. Temporary "bridges" will be installed over the new concrete so shoppers may have access during the day.

The temporary asphalt will be removed from the

street, irrigation lines and electrical conduits will be installed, and the street will be graded. Base rock will be installed, along with new curbs and new street pavement. Any remaining new sidewalks will be poured.

All fences will come down (except any surrounding private property), and the street will be reopened for vehicular traffic. The sidewalks will be sandblasted, and installations will begin on streetlights, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, sculpture gardens, bike racks, and other streetscape elements.

■ **More than 200 trees** will be planted between September 15 and early December, a time when transplanted trees are less vulnerable to damage

because they are in a dormant stage of growth.

■ **Final stages of Streetscape work** will include a new granite base and obelisk for the World War I monument at the apex of Pacific and Front Streets, plus new spotlights for the eagle. This area also will include a new garden, and a community Christmas tree of atlas cedar will be planted in front of World Savings. A large granite compass to memorialize the earthquake will be installed in the sidewalk at the corner of Water and Front Streets (near the Post Office). All work is expected to be completed early in December.

■ **The City has leased an additional parking lot** in the 1000 block of Pacific Avenue (across the street from the Catalyst) for free public park-

ing while construction continues south of Cathcart Street. Other free lots include the site of the now demolished Warehouse Liquors on Front Street, and the former Toyota lot at Pacific and Laurel Streets. Please remind customers and employees that these lots are available. The City continues to investigate other possibilities.

■ **Contractors have been required to remove all equipment and supplies** from public parking spaces (except in fenced areas) and to clean all construction areas at the end of each work day. If anyone has problems, please contact the BSI office at 457-2014.

Donna Maurillo, owner of DynaComm Public Relations at 501 Cedar St., is public information consultant for the utilities reconstruction. Her updates appear monthly.

Downtown Reconstruction: What's Been Accomplished?



A great deal of work has been accomplished to replace underground utilities since the Downtown Reconstruction Project was inaugurated in August 1991. When Phase 1B is completed in late June, a cumulative total of more than six miles of new utility lines will have been installed since last summer!

When the Streetscape Phase begins on May 4, most of the reconstruction work will be above ground, so progress will be more visible. Here is a summary of what has been completed so far.

The following work has been completed on Pacific Avenue between Cathcart and Water Streets, a distance of 2900 feet

■ New 42-inch and 30-inch concrete storm drains have been installed, supplementing the old drains.

■ New 12-inch PVC water mains have been installed, replacing the old damaged mains.

■ New 12-inch and 8-inch clay sewer lines have been installed, replacing the old damaged lines.

■ New lateral utility lines have been installed between the main lines and the sidewalks at both existing and

future buildings.

■ New telephone lines have been installed.

In addition

■ Utility extensions in excess of 50 feet long have been installed along Lincoln and Church Streets and Soquel and Walnut Avenues beginning where they meet Pacific Avenue. These will connect to new utility lines planned for these streets in the future.

■ A new 48-inch concrete storm drain has been installed between Pacific Avenue and the levee to provide improved drainage south of Cathcart Street.

■ A new catch basin has been installed in front of Kinko's on Front Street to alleviate preexisting street flooding.

■ A new 21-inch clay sewer line has been installed on Pacific Avenue between Sycamore and Front Streets, replacing the old damaged line.

■ New 8-inch PVC water mains have been installed at the intersection of Water Street and Pacific Avenue.

The following work is currently in progress

■ New 42-inch concrete storm drains, 8-inch clay sewer lines, and 12-inch PVC water lines are being installed on Pacific Avenue between Laurel and Cathcart Streets, a distance of 1900 feet.

In addition

■ To increase public parking, the City has leased a portion of the former Toyota lot on Pacific Avenue and Laurel Street and the Lockwood property on Pacific Avenue across from the Catalyst. The old Warehouse Liquors property on Front Street has been converted into a parking lot. The City also has reconfigured parking on most of Pacific Avenue to increase the number of available spaces

—Donna R. Maurillo