



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

# mandan messenger

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## February meetings

**City Commission**, Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m. & Feb. 18 at 5 p.m., City Hall

**School Board**, Feb. 3 at 5:30 p.m. & Feb. 18 at 7 p.m., City Hall

**Park Board**, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

**County Commission**, Feb. 13 & 25 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

**City Planning & Zoning**, Feb. 24 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

## 2020 FALSP hike schedule

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park will host several hikes in 2020.

- Jan. 1 - The First Day Hike
- Feb. 16 - Sweetheart Hike
- Mar. 15 - Leprechaun Leap
- Apr. 5 - Crazy Fools Hike
- May 10 - Mother's Day Hike
- Jun. 21 - Father's Day Hike
- Jul. 19 - Summertime Root Beer Float Hike
- Aug. 9 - Fido's State Park Adventure
- Sept. 20 - Autumn Colors Hike
- Oct. 18 - Little Monster's Hike
- Nov. 8 - Blaze Orange Hike
- Dec. 13 - Light the Blockhouse Holiday Hike

### Bonus Hikes:

- Feb. 29 - Leap Day Hike
- May 25 - Memorial Day Walk 5k & 15k
- Jun. 6 - National Trails Day
- Sept. 5 - Nighttime Glow Party Hike

Hikes are at 1 p.m. with the exception of the Jan. 1, Dec. 13, and bonus hikes.

## Mid-Town East street improvement district created

The City Commission recently approved a 2020 street improvement district. The district, known as "Mid-Town East," consists of local streets north of Main Street up to Fifth Street NE and east of Collins Ave to Fourth Ave NE.

The Engineering and Planning Department hosted a public input meeting in November to explain the scope of the project and receive comments.

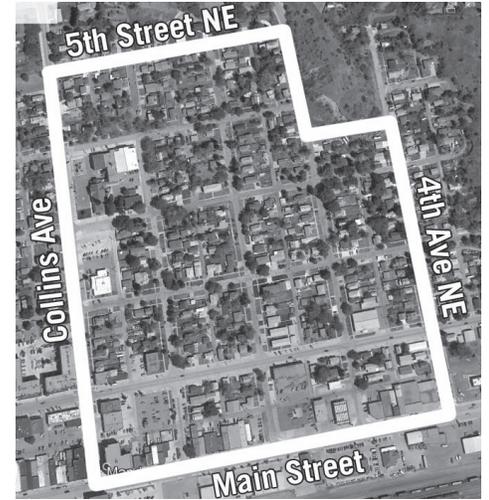
The scope of the project includes:

- reconstruct most streets and alleys to a 20-year life design;
- seal coat a small section of Fourth Ave NE;
- replace wooden street light poles and all wiring throughout the district;
- add and upsize some of the storm sewer system along Second Street NE to help take pressure off First Street NE
- replace water main throughout most of the project area; and
- address sanitary sewer system needs.

Mayor Helbling questioned if the project would include the widening of any roads, specifically Third Ave NE. Widening of the roadway is not currently included in the project scope since most of the existing curb, gutter, and sidewalks are in good shape, but City Engineer Justin Froseth stated his office and project consultant Moore Engineering would explore the option.

**Storm water assessment concerns.** While street reconstruction seems to be widely accepted with the understanding that improvements are necessary, there is some concern with property owners in the area north of the street improvement district being assessed for storm water improvements.

See **Mid-Town** pg. 4



The project area consists of local streets north of Main Street up to Fifth Street NE and east of Collins Ave to Fourth Ave NE.

## Residents reminded of utility bill increases

Residential customers are reminded of utility rate increases approved in the City's 2020 budget. Increases effective Jan. 1 are as follows:

- **Water and wastewater base charge.** \$1.55 increase per month, per meter;
- **Garbage collection & hauling.** \$0.05 increase per month, per family living unit; and
- **Recycling.** \$0.15 increase per month, per family living unit.

The total monthly increase for a residential customer using an average of 800 cubic feet or 8 units of water will be a \$1.75. A portion of that increase, \$1.55 per month, is for the city's contribution towards the new raw water intake project.





## NEW & EXPANDING MANDAN BUSINESSES

### New

- Radco Truck Accessories, 4018 Memorial Hwy SE

### Upcoming

- Latidot Scoop & Gift Shop, 104 First St NE
- Paddle Trap, 2500 Pirates Loop SE

### Expanding

- DaWise Perry Funeral Home, 4211 Old Red Trail NW
- Midway Lanes, 3327 Memorial Hwy SE

## New 'My Mandan' video clips highlight places of enjoyment for young people

Mandan is featuring five new video clips in the 'My Mandan' series. The videos showcase young citizens and a few places in the community where they like to shop, eat and otherwise gather with friends and family for entertainment.

"The new video series adds to an online library that invites area residents and visitors to fully explore Mandan's unique stores, restaurants and fun things to do," says Laurie Leingang, chair of the Mandan Tomorrow - Leadership, Pride and Image Committee, which provides guidance on a community marketing program.



In a 'My Mandan' video clip, Samuel talks about taking lessons at Guitar Lot.

For a couple years, the committee has been guiding a grassroots promotion to engage community members and visitors in telling their own "My Mandan" story. Members of the public share photos and video clips with a #MyMandan tag on social media platforms showing experiences in favorite stores, restaurants and attractions in Mandan.

The new youth-oriented video clips were released at the end of 2019. All five short videos are available at [cityofmandan.com/thingstodo](http://cityofmandan.com/thingstodo), and on Made in Mandan social media including Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Mandan's community marketing program is coordinated by the City of Mandan Business Development and Communications Department. Funding for marketing projects comes from public and private partners.

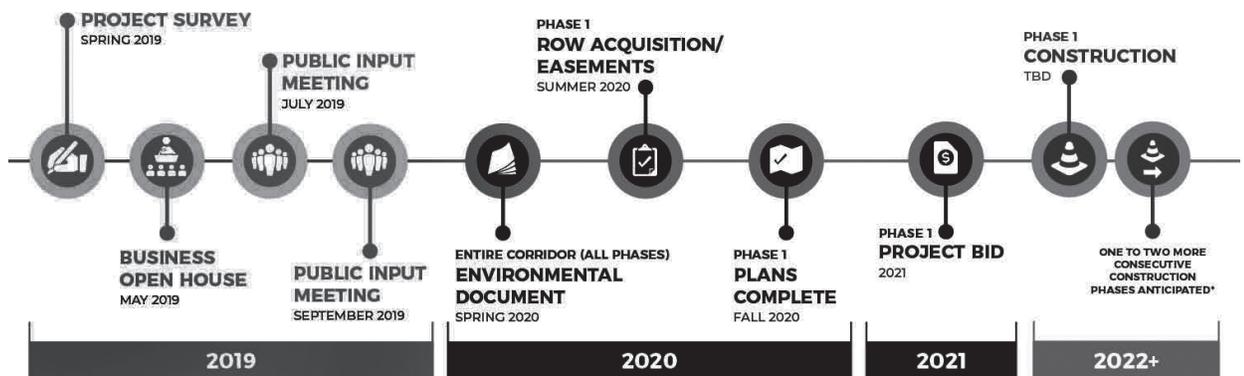
## Design activities continue for Memorial Highway reconstruction

Design of the Memorial Highway reconstruction project continues to progress. Reconstruction, anticipated to be done in phases, is currently scheduled to begin in 2022.

The process in 2019 focused on collecting public input. A survey and open house in the spring for the business owners along the corridor provided valuable insight. Two opportunities for public input were offered to engage with the project team and learn more about the overall scope of the project.

Steps for 2020 will include the completion of the environmental document anticipated in the spring, right-of-way acquisition and easements acquired in the summer and phase 1 plans completed in the fall. Project bids are anticipated in 2021.

Visit the North Dakota Department of Transportation's project website at [dot.nd.gov/projects/memorialhwy](http://dot.nd.gov/projects/memorialhwy) for more information. To submit comments, email [input@memorialhighwayproject.com](mailto:input@memorialhighwayproject.com). Periodic updates will also be posted to [cityofmandan.com](http://cityofmandan.com).





## Future roadway project applications submitted for federal funding assistance

Annually City Engineering and Planning Director Justin Froseth compiles recommendations for roadway improvement projects eligible for federal funding assistance and presents suggestions to the City Commission. The department assembles applications for the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which coordinates the funding requests for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT)'s Transportation Improvement Program.

Only projects that are on the functional classification system as an arterial or collector roadway are eligible for federal assistance. The City will proceed with applications for two different programs.

**2024 Urban Road Program (URP).** These projects are eligible for up to 80 percent federal funding with a 20 percent local match. Approximately \$4 million is designated to the metro area. Froseth notes applications for roadway extensions or new roads tend to not be awarded funds under this program. The Engineering and Planning Department recently submitted three applications for the following:

- **Reconstruction of Old Red Trail from 40<sup>th</sup> Ave to 56<sup>th</sup> Ave.** To address poor pavement conditions with a long-term solution which also improves capacity by introducing turning lanes to newly developed areas and areas prime for growth. Estimated at \$8 million and has been applied for previously.
- **Third Ave NE from Main St to Fifth St NE.** For the reconstruction of a segment of Third Ave NE that is in fair to poor condition, focused on improving the road condition. Estimated at \$2 million. It's worth noting that this is part of the Mid-Town East street improvement project, and if awarded, the City would seek reimbursement for the cost of this part of the project.
- **Division St from Collins Ave to Sunset Dr.** This estimated \$2 million project would reconstruct a segment of Division St NW that is in fair to poor condition.

**Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).** Primarily used for rural highway safety projects, but is a program the City is able to tap into as well. The Engineering and Planning Department submitted an application for rapid rectangular flashing beacons in various locations throughout the city.

**2024 Urban Regional Program.** Projects are on routes that are part of the state highway network, and are eligible for approximately 80 percent federal funding, and 10 percent state funding with a 10 percent local match. Projects are evaluated against statewide needs. The City of Mandan has projects recently approved and it is unlikely to receive more funding this round.

**Urban Grant Program.** This program was added in 2017 to fund transportation projects that include items improving the vitality of downtown districts of cities, getting its roots from the Governor's Main Street Initiative. Mandan has two projects approved to date, so another in this round is unlikely.

The applications were submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization in November. Notification of funding being awarded is expected in the summer. Stay tuned to [cityofmandan.com](http://cityofmandan.com) for more information.

### UPCOMING URBAN REGIONAL PROJECTS

Past successful applications include:

- 2021 Reconstruction of Highway 1806 N from Mandan Ave to the intersection with Collins Ave extending up to 27<sup>th</sup> St NW.
- 2022-2024 Memorial Highway Reconstruction in three funding phases totaling \$30 million for two or three construction seasons.

### UPCOMING URBAN GRANT PROJECTS

The City of Mandan has received about \$3 million in program commitments for:

- 2020 Main Street improvement and lane reallocation.
- 2021 improvement project for downtown avenues and First Street west of Collins Ave.



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

## Mid-Town

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Froseth explained that the City's special assessment policy states that if an area affects part of the project then the area should be assessed for that specific part of the improvements.

Storm water from the area north of the street improvement district runs through pipes in the project area. The average storm water assessment estimated for the area outside the street improvement district for a 10,000 sq. ft. lot is about \$2,600.

**Financial impact.** The total project cost is approximately \$8 million. The estimated special assessment amount for street and storm water improvements is a little over \$5.5 million before a buy down of \$1.1 million with Municipal Infrastructure Funds, also referred to as Prairie Dog Funds. In preliminary design, the underground water and sewer needs are estimated at an additional \$2.54 million. Of the \$2.54 million, \$1 million is being bought down with additional Municipal Infrastructure Funds, and the remainder will come from the City's water and sewer utility fund.

There is approximately \$3.6 million of the total project cost not being special assessed. Mayor Helbling noted the buy down of this project with Municipal Infrastructure Funds is the same as what was done with the Southside street improvement district. The special assessment for a typical-sized, non-corner lot with street, alley and storm sewer amounts all applied in the district ranges from \$12,000-\$15,000.

**Next steps.** The Engineering and Planning Department mailed letters in December to every property in the assessment district, a process that is not required by state law, but allows the city to be transparent with the assessment district. If approved in January, the project will be bid in the spring for 2020 construction. Stay tuned to [cityofmandan.com](http://cityofmandan.com) for updates.

## Property tax exemption & credit forms due Feb. 1

Property tax exemptions, paraplegic disabled exemptions, blind exemptions and homestead property credit forms are due Feb. 1. The City's Assessor's office recently mailed forms to property owners that applied for these programs last year.

If you received the disabled veterans credit last year, nothing is required this year, unless you moved or your disability compensation rating changed. New application and rating changes are due Feb. 1. These forms are also available for new applicants in the Assessing office or online at [cityofmandan.com/assessing](http://cityofmandan.com/assessing). For more information, call 667-3232.

## Snow removal reminders

Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours after its deposit. If not removed, the City may do so and charge the property owner. Report problems to the Engineering Department at 667-3225. Also, please clear the area around mailboxes and fire hydrants.

**Do not put snow from your property on the street.** There is an exception for properties in the downtown core area with buildings constructed lot line to lot line. In these circumstances, snow from the sidewalks may be shoveled into the adjacent on-street parking lane. Public works crews will remove it when hauling snow from the area.

**Remove vehicles from streets.** When possible, please remove vehicles from the street before or as soon as possible after a storm to help with the snow removal process.

Additional reminders are available at [cityofmandan.com/snowremoval](http://cityofmandan.com/snowremoval). A map of snow removal route priorities is available at [cityofmandan.com/maps](http://cityofmandan.com/maps).

## City Contacts

Mandan City Hall  
205 Second Avenue NW  
Phone 701-667-3215  
Fax 701-667-3223  
[www.cityofmandan.com](http://www.cityofmandan.com)

### Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling  
Mike Braun  
Scott Davis  
Amber Larson  
Dennis Rohr

### City Departments

Administration ..... 667-3210  
Airport Authority ..... 663-0669  
Assessing ..... 667-3232  
Building Inspection ..... 667-3230  
Business Development  
& Communications ..... 667-3485  
Cemetery ..... 667-3240  
Engineering, Planning  
& Zoning ..... 667-3225  
Finance ..... 667-3213  
Fire ..... 667-3288  
Forestry ..... 667-3240  
Grounds  
Maintenance ..... 667-3240  
Human Resources ..... 667-3217  
Landfill ..... 667-0184  
Library ..... 667-5365  
Municipal Court ..... 667-3270  
Police ..... 667-3250  
Public Works ..... 667-3240  
Special Assessments ..... 667-3271  
Utility Billing ..... 667-3219  
Waste Water  
Treatment ..... 667-3278  
Water Treatment ..... 667-3275

### Receive E-mail Notices

Sign up to receive notice of city meetings and news at [cityofmandan.com/updates](http://cityofmandan.com/updates). Meeting dates and agendas are also available.