

Concept unveiled for Eastside's Gateway Project

by Mike Irwin | June 14, 2017, 4:40 p.m.

Business, Public Safety



SCJ Alliance/Graphic provided

The proposed "final concept" for East Wenatchee's Gateway Project, a redevelopment of property at the intersection of Ninth Street and Valley Mall Parkway.

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A closer look | Gateway Project costs

A partial breakdown of the \$538,000 construction price for the Gateway Project:

- <> \$317,000 for construction and materials
- <> \$100,000 for building demolition and removal
- <> \$63,000 in contingency for construction (20 percent)
- <> \$56,000 for design and engineering

— Source: SCJ Alliance

EAST WENATCHEE — An aging gas station at one of the city's busiest intersections will likely be transformed into an open-air event space and park, consultants told the East Wenatchee City County on Tuesday.

Called the Gateway Project, the \$528,000 redevelopment of the southwest corner where Ninth Street crosses Valley Mall Parkway will serve as a community plaza, a welcoming entry to the city's old downtown and a pedestrian link to the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail a half-block away.

Dan Ireland with engineering firm SCJ Alliance in Wenatchee presented the proposed "final concept" of the project that includes grassy tiered seating spaces, a raised stage, colored concrete walkways, perimeter landscaping and space for a sculpture centerpiece. Also included in the design are eight parking spaces and plumbing for future restrooms and a water feature.

The city has committed \$350,000 to the project and, according to council members, will explore funding options to complete the build-out. One possibility is to sell concrete pavers engraved with donors' names for the plaza's walkways.

Unveiling of the concept follows a survey conducted in March and an open house in May where public comments were gathered on a pair of proposals. Participants were strongly in favor of rehabbing the corner into an event space, Ireland said.

The city bought the 20,000-square-foot property in 2015 with the intention of redeveloping the site. Two buildings — the gas station and a workshop — will be demolished to make way for the new use. A vertical “Texaco” sign will also be removed.

City officials said they hope construction of the new public space will take place in the summer of 2018, a couple of years before an adjacent roundabout is installed at the intersection of Ninth Street and Valley Mall Parkway. A second roundabout at Ninth Street and Highway 28 is at least four years away.

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