



## CITY OF BOULDER

**AGENDA TITLE:** Chautauqua Pedestrian Safety, Access and Lighting Improvements project update

**PRESENTER:**

Melanie Sloan, Transportation Planner, Public Works Transportation

Brian Wiltshire, Project Manager, Public Works Transportation

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chautauqua Pedestrian Improvement Project (Chautauqua project) proposed final plans are presented tonight for review by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB).

The Chautauqua project will construct a sidewalk on the south side of Baseline Road from 6<sup>th</sup> Street east to Chautauqua Park's eastern boundary west of 10<sup>th</sup> Street; improve pedestrian crossings to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards at intersections within the project area; installation of stone stairs at West Trail Study Area Plan designated access trails on Baseline Road into the Chautauqua Meadow; construct a crusher fines pedestrian connection from Baseline Road to Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) designated access trails along Kinnikinic Road; construct a five-foot wide detached, patina sandcrete concrete sidewalk from Baseline Road into Chautauqua Park along Kinnikinic Road; install fieldstone swales along Kinnikinic Road to the ranger cottage parking lot entrance on the west and Sumac Drive on the east; construct a soft surface trail from the re-constructed Queen's Gate near 9<sup>th</sup> Street into Chautauqua Park; make the existing transit stop (also known as King's Gate) compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA); and install pedestrian lighting from the project area into Chautauqua Park.

The Chautauqua project was one of the projects listed in the 2014 voter-approved [Community, Culture and Safety tax](#). The total project budget is \$1.5 million.

Vegetation pruning and removal will begin in the fall of 2016. Project construction is anticipated to begin in the winter of 2016 and will take six months to complete.

### Current Context

This section of Baseline Road serves an important role for the use of Chautauqua Park, Open Space and Mountain Parks trails and Chautauqua Association lodging, programming and venues. These three facets of Chautauqua, combined, attract more than half a million visitors per year.

Currently, the lack of sidewalk on the south side of Baseline Road from west of Sixth Street east to King's Gate creates a safety hazard. Pedestrians parking on the south side of Baseline Road must walk in the street increasing pedestrian-vehicle and pedestrian-bicycle conflict. The lack of sidewalks also impedes the mobility and access of area residents. Consequently, the project area has been identified in the City's Missing Sidewalk Links program.

Pedestrians also travel in Kinnikinic Road due to a lack of adequate pedestrian connections to OSMP designated access trails and existing Chautauqua Park paths. During the public process, the project team received comments and emails from the public that shared their concerns for the lack of safe pedestrian connections from Baseline Road to Chautauqua Park along Kinnikinic Road, requested pedestrian connections to be maintainable in the winter and called for pedestrian connections to be ADA accessible and stroller friendly.

Special events, programming and other attractions bring visitors, performers and employees to Chautauqua during low light conditions, such as evening musical performances or talks. Performers and Chautauqua staff are assigned parking in the lot on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The HOP 2 Chautauqua, a free City of Boulder transit service to the Colorado Music Festival and Chautauqua Summer Series events, provides service to the King's Gate transit stop on Baseline Road. Existing unlit pedestrian paths link both the 12<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot and King's Gate to the Dining Hall and performance areas and venues. Visitors, the Colorado Chautauqua Association and the voters identified the unlit paths as a safety concern. During the public process, the project team received comments from the public stating their support for pedestrian scale, historically appropriate styled, programmable, dark sky compliant lighting along the existing pedestrian paths from King's Gate to the parking area on 12th Street.

## Project Purpose

The project team is directed by the 2014 voter approved Community, Culture and Safety sales tax ballot initiative to provide the community with safer, accessible pedestrian routes. The project team developed project plans that achieve this by providing ADA accessible sidewalks, intersection crossings and pedestrian connections and through installation of pedestrian lighting along key paths.

The project team seeks to honor the natural character of Chautauqua through material selection, design and re-vegetation plant selection. The project team also seeks to honor Chautauqua's National Historic District designation through design and material selection for all project improvements, including those within the historic district boundary.

The interdepartmental project team is also guided by the members' respective master plans and guiding plans. The Transportation Master Plan guides the Public Works' Transportation department to provide travel options by constructing multimodal facilities. The West Trail Study Area Plan guides the Open Space and Mountain Parks department to reduce damaging social trails on the north side of Chautauqua Meadow. The General Design Guidelines for Boulder's Historic Districts and Individual Landmarks and the Chautauqua Design Guidelines provide guidance for improvements to "reflect the significance of (this) historic district to the citizens of Boulder."

Additionally, the Colorado Chautauqua Association has created the Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan which provides "a series of recommended strategies and tasks that provide a direction for holistically managing change at Chautauqua to ensure that it continues to evolve in a manner that is in keeping with its historic character" and the Master Exterior Lighting Plan, which identified proposed lighting designs and locations.

The project team has used the Colorado Chautauqua Association's master plans as guiding documents in the development of previous project plans. It has become clear through previous presentations to the Landmarks Board that these plans have not been developed through the collaborative framework or approved by the Landmarks Board. Recognizing this, the project team has removed the lighting component from the current round of Landmarks Alteration Certificate application so that the Colorado Chautauqua Association and the Landmarks Board can develop an approved lighting plan over the next year (2016-2017). The Chautauqua project will seek a landmark alteration certificate to install the first phase of that lighting plan when it is completed (2017-2018).

## Improvements (Appendix A)

The Chautauqua Project will provide the following improvements (those adjacent to or within Parks and Recreation managed areas are in bold):

- **Construction of 5-foot wide sidewalks on the south side of Baseline Road from the park boundary near 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the end of on-street parking west of Sixth Street**
- **Improved ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings along Baseline Road**
- **Transit stop improvements, including an ADA-compliant ramp at King's Gate**
- **Construction of a soft surface social trail from the re-constructed Queen's Gate into Chautauqua Park**
- **Construction of a five-foot wide, patina sandcrete concrete detached sidewalk on the east side of Kinnikinic Road within the historic district boundary**
- **Construction of swales along Kinnikinic Road from Baseline Road to Bluebell Road on the west and Sumac Drive on the East**
- **Pedestrian lighting**
  - The Colorado Chautauqua Association will work with the Landmarks Board through a collaborative framework to develop an approved lighting plan over the next year (2016-2017). The Chautauqua project will implement the first phase of that approved lighting plan subsequent to the master lighting plan development.
- Installation of stone stairs at West Trail Study Area Plan designated access trails on Baseline Road into the Chautauqua Meadow
- Native shrubs and plantings to replace non-native species and improve landscape conditions on the north edge of the Chautauqua meadow
- Crusher fines trail from Baseline Road to Open Space and Mountain Parks designated access trails

## Public Process

The project team developed preliminary project plans and presented these to the relevant boards for review and feedback: Open Space Board of Trustees (September 9, 2015), the Transportation Advisory Board (September 14, 2015), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (September 28, 2015), and the Landmarks Board (October 7, 2015).

The project team then presented the preliminary project plans to the public at an open house held at the Colorado Chautauqua Association Community House (October 15, 2015). The project team also received input from the public through emails and online surveys.

The project team incorporated feedback received from the boards, committees and the public into the proposed project plans, where feasible.

Some of the improvements identified in the CCS ballot initiative and from feedback received through the public process were outside of the city's right-of-way and inside the Chautauqua historic district boundary. These improvements required a Landmarks Alteration Certificate to construct: pedestrian lighting from the King's Gate (transit stop) entrance to the parking lot east of the tennis courts; pedestrian lighting at the Shelter House (Trolley station) and the Arbor; installation of way-finding elements; fieldstone drainage swales along Kinnikinic Street; conversion of parallel parking to angular parking along the northern edge of Sumac Drive; concrete sidewalk on the east side of Kinnikinic Road from Baseline Road to Sumac Drive; and construction of a soft surface path to connect Queen's Gate with Sumac Drive.

The project team presented revised project plans to the Landmarks Board on February 3, 2016. The project team withdrew the application when it became apparent that the Board was going to deny the application.

The project team revised the proposed project plans to respond to the board's concerns and re-submitted a Landmarks Alteration Certificate application for the following improvements: fieldstone swales along both sides of Kinnikinic Road, from Baseline Road to Bluebell Road on the west and Baseline Road to Sumac Drive on the east; construction of a crusher fines social path from the re-constructed Queen's Gate (Baseline Road near 9<sup>th</sup> Street) into Chautauqua Park to guide park users away from historic oak tree roots; and construction of a five-foot wide, patina-sandcrete concrete detached sidewalk on the east side of Kinnikinic Road within the historic district boundary. The landmarks alteration certificate application for these improvements received approval from the Landmarks Board on April 6, 2016.

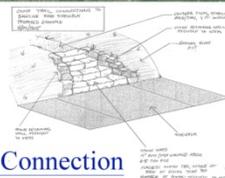
## Next Steps

The project team will present the proposed final project plans to the relevant boards in May: OSBT: May 9, 2016; TAB: May 9, 2016; and PRAB: May 23, 2016) and to the public in a second open house in June, 2016 (date to be determined).

A project contractor will be selected in fall, 2016. Vegetation removal is anticipated to begin in fall, 2016 followed by project construction in winter, 2016-2017. The project is estimated to be completed, including re-vegetation and tree planting, by spring, 2017.

# Appendix A

## West of 6th Street to Kinnikinic Road

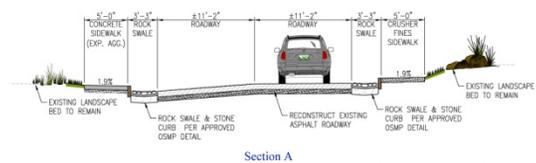
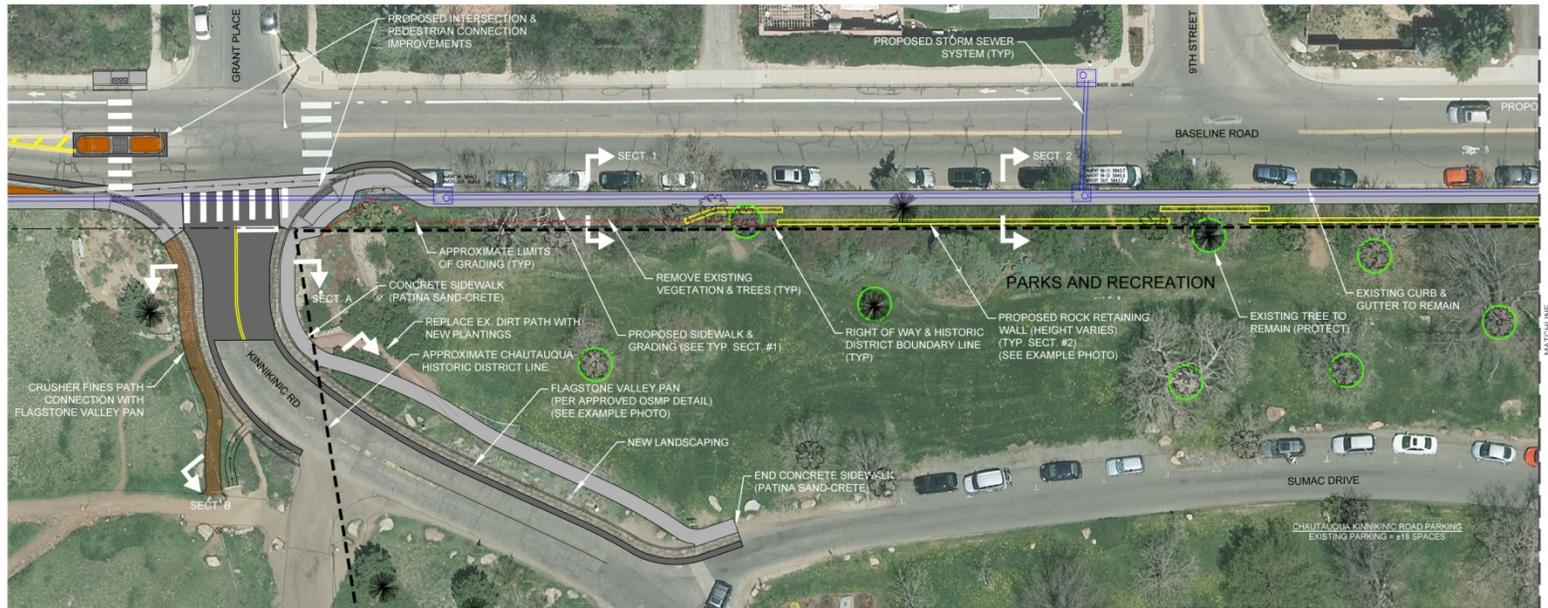


Conceptual Stair Connection

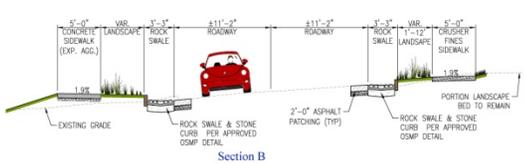


Proposed Sidewalk Section  
6th Street to Kinnikinic Road

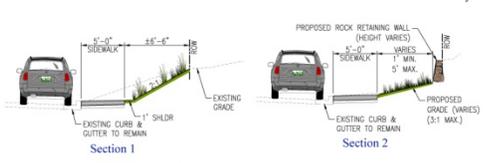
# Kinnikinic Road to 9th Street



Section A  
**Proposed Roadway Sections**  
 Kinnikinic Road

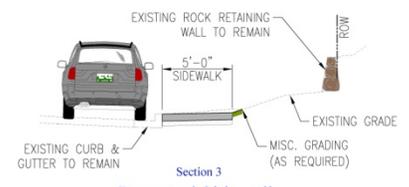
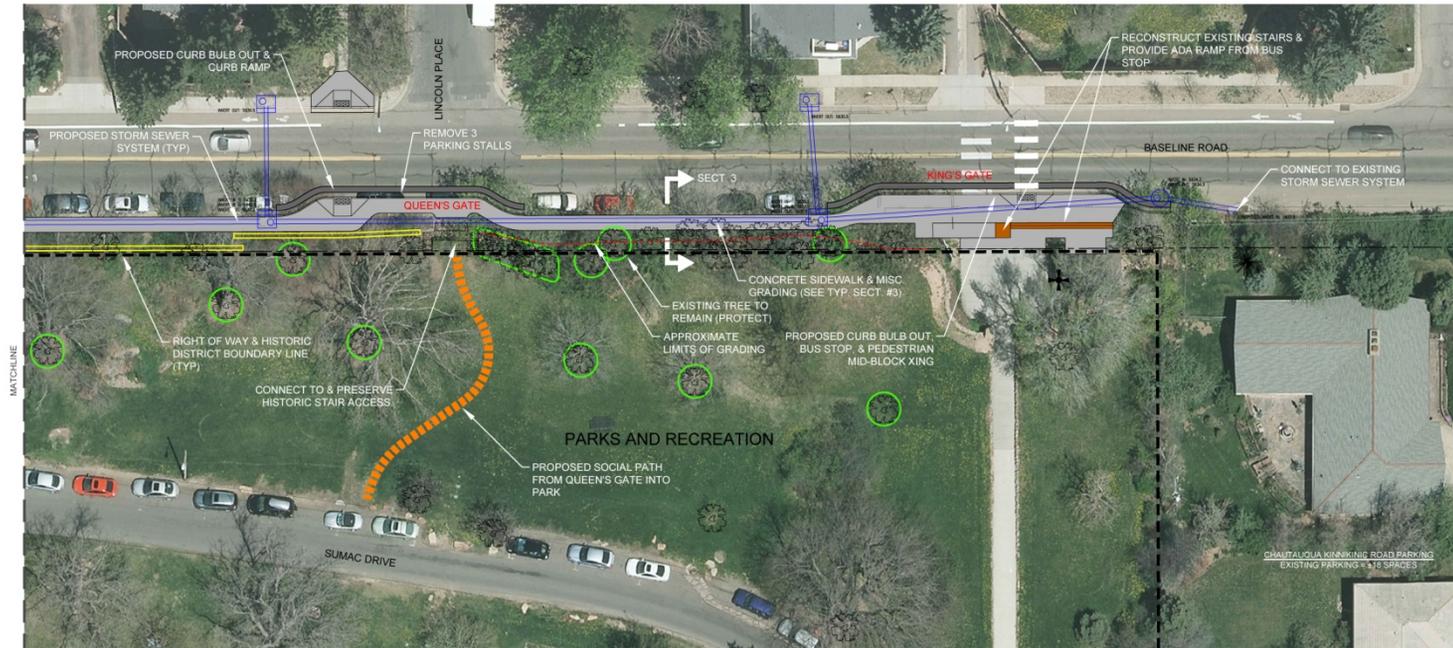


Section B



Section 1  
 Section 2  
**Proposed Sidewalk Sections**  
 Kinnikinic Road to 10th Street

# 9th Street to Chautauqua's Eastern Boundary



**Proposed Sidewalk**  
 Kinnikinic Road to 10th Street & Sumac Drive

## Chautauqua Pedestrian Safety, Access, and Lighting Improvements

# Design Concept

## Kinnikinic to 10th

May, 2016



## Renderings of Selected Improvements



Chautauqua King's Gate  
Existing Conditions



Chautauqua Kings Gate  
Proposed Conditions



Chautauqua Entry at Kinnikinic Rd  
Existing Conditions



Chautauqua Detached Sidewalk  
Proposed Conditions



Chautauqua Entry at Kinnikinic Rd  
Proposed Conditions