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FEATURED

## City leaders back return of 2-way street on Franklin Avenue at Mason Transit

By Jeff Chew May 9, 2017 Updated 32 min ago



Jeff Chew photo

A Mason Transit bus pulls out of the one-way section of Franklin Avenue between 5th and 7th streets.

SHELTON — Franklin Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets will become a two-way street once again.

"After careful consideration and mostly negative public feedback, the city has decided to return Franklin Avenue to a two-way street," the Public Works Department informed the Shelton City Commissioners on Monday.

Under the proposal that received city commissioners support, the lane closest to the Safeway parking lot will return to a westbound general motorist lane. The lane closest to Mason Transit Community Center and bus station will run eastbound. Angled parking will return to parallel parking.



"We found multiple issues with not only the motorists using that street but also one of the biggest issues was the pedestrian traffic down there and those folks just losing the general thought that that was a actually a city street," Public Works Director Craig Gregory told the city commissioners.

The project would "reinstate some sanity down there so that maybe they would respect that as actually a city street," Gregory said. Pedestrians were inadvertently running across the street, creating potential traffic dangers, he said.

Mayor Gary Cronce said through communications with business owners and others, he concluded that the stretch of Franklin was "very confusing" to the public.

City Commissioner Kathy McDowell said she was confused when she pulled out of the Safeway parking lot on to Franklin. Gregory affirmed McDowell's confusion, saying some motorists were accidentally turning right against one-way traffic.

City Commissioner Tracy Moore said she was concerned with the city creating even more confusion with the change back to a two-way street.



"Hopefully, this will be the last time it is changes in a while," she said.

Delivery trucks were parking right on Franklin so it looked more like a private street, Gregory said.

The rapid flasher lights on the crosswalk will be relocated to Wallace Kneeland Boulevard fronting Oakland Bay Junior High School's grounds but the crosswalk would remain, according to Gregory.

