



Lake Street Construction FAQs

Overview: *Lake Street is getting a makeover that involves both repaving the street and adding many exciting new features. These changes are designed to prepare historic downtown Miller Beach for further revitalization and investment, and make Lake Street a better experience for visitors and residents.*

These improvements include widened sidewalks, a protected two way cycle track at the back of the west curb line, parallel parking, one lane of vehicle travel in each direction, new lighting, signs, and pavement markings.

Q1: When will the construction happen?

A: There will be two phases as follows: Phase I starts in June 2019 and ends by December 2019. Phase II will begin by June 2020 and end by December 2020.

Q2. Which areas are covered by Phase I and by Phase II?

A: Phase I starts at the South Shore Line (NICTD) railroad tracks and ends at the railroad tracks near the Douglas Center. Phase II starts at the railroad tracks near the Douglas Center and ends at Lake Street Beach.

Q3: Will Lake Street be shut down at any time?

A: NO, Lake Street will ALWAYS have one lane in each direction open for traffic. Alleys and east/west roads will be reconstructed first and Lake Street will remain open, as is, during this phase of construction. Then Lake Street will be constructed in two phases half at a time to maintain one lane of travel in each direction at all times.

Q4: Why reconstruct the alleys first?

A: The alleys will be reconstructed first to allow all needed business deliveries to be conducted through the alleys. This will alleviate congestion on Lake Street.

Q5: Will the alleys be fixed? They have potholes and they're a mess!

A: Yes, the alleys parallel to Lake Street will be reconstructed before the Lake Street work to accommodate traffic.

Q6: What about parking changes? What should I know?

A: Existing angled parking will be replaced with parallel parking. A new parking lot will be added at the former Ming Ling site. This new lot will be available prior to any on street parking spaces being eliminated. The number of parking spaces will be increased overall, so that visitors and residents will be able to park and easily walk to their favorite shops, restaurants or other businesses.

Q7: Will there be a charge for parking on Lake Street?

A: No, there is no plan to charge for parking on Lake Street.



Lake Street Construction FAQs (continued)



Q8: What is going to happen with the sidewalks and what about accessibility?

A: The sidewalks will be both widened and, in isolated locations, raised. Because the sidewalks will be raised to about an 8 inch curb height, this will create better access to the stores. This will eliminate most steps up to front entry doors. At these locations, a wide section of the sidewalk will slope to the front doors. This will make the buildings much easier to enter for those with physical limitations and bring the vast majority of Lake Street buildings in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Q9: If the sidewalks are raised how high will they be?

A: In isolated locations, the proposed curb will be approximately 8” tall and allow car doors to swing over them. 8” is one of the standard heights for a stair step.

Q10: What are the new features that will be added to Lake Street?

A: A two way protected cycle track, wider sidewalks for cafe dining, new planter areas and trees will be installed. Street poles will have electrical outlets and accommodate banners.

Q11: What do you mean by cafe dining?

A: There will now be room on the sidewalks for the stores and restaurants to utilize. For example, they’ll be able to place tables and chairs on the Lake Street sidewalks for their customers.

Q12: Where will the cycle-track go, and what is it?

A: It will be on the west side of Lake Street and connect the South Shore Station with Lake Street Beach and everything in between. A cycle-track is a two way lane for bicycle riders, and pedestrians.

Q13: Is this going to be confusing, how will we know more?

A: Signage will be implemented and carefully done to avoid confusion like with the 2018 sewer project. Every effort is being made to make sure that confusion is avoided. Updates will be posted on NextDoor and on the City of Gary website.

Q14: How will the businesses be impacted?

A: No one enjoys construction projects, but the City of Gary is already working closely with the Lake Street businesses to make sure that the work is coordinated and that the Lake Street building occupants are always informed.

Q15: How will visitors to Lake Street find out more about it?

A: Updates will be on the City of Gary website and on NextDoor.

Q16: What about the current plantings and trees?

A: The City of Gary is working together with the community, especially the Miller Garden Club, to plan and coordinate all of the plantings and their locations.

Q17: What about the construction equipment?

A: The City of Gary will only be using one main general contractor for this project and their equipment will be consolidated in one or two locations that do not obstruct traffic or create problems.

Q18: My kids couldn’t get to the basketball court during the last project redoing sewers, will this happen again?

A: We’re so sorry that happened! To prevent that from happening, the City of Gary will not allow equipment will be stored in front of the basketball court. We’re making sure that the kids will be able to get to the basketball court safely during the construction project and that no equipment is in the way.

