



March 2023 RAISE Update

Released March 31, 2023

- City/CamTran/JAHA team and Michael Baker (MB is the project consultant for historic preservation and environmental review services) developed a list of stakeholders to interview for the Section 106 (historic) and NEPA (environmental) clearance work. Project partners provided input and feedback to Michael Baker on the framework and list of questions for stakeholder interviews.
- Held weekly status calls with Michael Baker team to compile project descriptions (each project partner developed their own description), aerial maps, and media coverage compilations for Section 106 and NEPA review process. Coordinated this work with CamTran and JAHA.
- City Manager conducted an interview with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette regarding revitalization in Johnstown which included discussion about the RAISE project and photographs of the project sites. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette published the article in its business section on March 19, 2023.
- Michael Baker worked with City, CamTran and JAHA to develop scope of work descriptions and documents to be included with Section 106 and NEPA materials.
- City staff continued work with Federal Transit Administration Region III staff to have the City approved as a new federal grant recipient. City staff submitted Financial Plan to FTA staff for review. Timeline for the review and approval from FTA is anticipated to be several months.
- Michael Baker team conducted stakeholder interviews for Section 106 and NEPA work with a dozen local, regional, and federal stakeholders.
- City Council approved SCAPE as the design/engineering firm on the Main Street Project. CJL Engineering and Thaddeus Pawlowski are included as subcontractors with the SCAPE team.
- City staff worked with SCAPE to formalize the design engineering contract. Staff worked with SCAPE and the City solicitor to revise several contract components. Contract with SCAPE will be finalized and signed in early April 2023.
- City staff worked with CamTran and adjacent property owner to begin property survey work at the CamTran Transit Center.
- City staff presented information about the Main Street project during a public meeting held by the Johnstown Convention and Visitors Bureau on March 29, 2023. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the CVB's branding initiative, much of which focuses on downtown and Main Street.
- City worked with its web hosting service to design and host a page specifically dedicated to providing updates on the Main Street and RAISE project.
- MB Team updated project partners on final aerial maps and project descriptions on all projects.
- City coordinated with Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to have RAISE projects placed on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

For more information please contact John Dubnansky at (814) 539-2504.



April 2023 RAISE Update

Released May 2, 2023

- City staff and City solicitor finalized contract details with SCAPE for the Main Street design and engineering plans. City Manager signed the contract for engineering and design with SCAPE.
- City/CamTran/JAHA team scheduled a May 1st kickoff meeting for project partner staff members and the SCAPE project design team. This will be the first time the project partners meet with SCAPE in person. Topics to be discussed include the scheduling and locations of public engagement meetings, familiarizing the design team with the project sites; talking about primary goals of the projects; taking questions from the SCAPE team about the project sites. A site visit of Main Street and other project sites will be conducted by the SCAPE team on May 1 and 2.
- Michael Baker team completed local stakeholder interviews for the Section 106 and NEPA process. The MB team provided detailed project notes for each interview. These notes were sent by MB to the project partners for review.
- Project partners worked with SCAPE on the scheduling of public engagement/input meetings throughout the year.
- Michael Baker submitted final project aerial maps and project descriptions for all project sites to the project team members.
- City staff briefed Acting DCED Secretary Rick Siger and other PA DCED officials about the RAISE projects. City staff also conducted a site tour of the Main Street project and other project sites with the DCED team (4/21).
- City received, reviewed and paid invoices from Michael Baker for Section 106 and NEPA work. Invoices for this work are shared equally between the project partners.
- City staff coordinated with CamTran and a private property owner to conduct survey work at the CamTran transit center.
- City staff met with CamTran representatives to discuss maintenance responsibilities at the Transit Center.

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May 2023 RAISE Update

Released Jun 2, 2023

- City staff worked with SCAPE team to plan and prepare for May 31st public engagement sessions. The sessions were held open house style. SCAPE team provided an aerial map and encouraged participants to provide comments on the map about what they didn't like about the corridor currently, and what they would like to see in the future. There were also drawing boards provided for attendees to prioritize the most meaningful components of the project.
- On May 31, SCAPE team and City held public engagement session to collect ideas and feedback about the Main Street project. The SCAPE team met with the City's Main Street advisory committee about the project at 3:00, and then held a session that was open to the public from 4:00-7:30. Over 100 people attended the session.
- Also on May 31st, the SCAPE team held a meeting with the local arts community to brainstorm and discuss public art opportunities with the Main Street project.
- RAISE project team reviewed draft social media, images and posts for multimedia postings drafted by Michael Baker team.
- RAISE team also reviewed and provided feedback to the Michael Baker team about the draft project survey, publicly distributed later in the month of May.
- <https://tinyurl.com/279vjwnk> - Link to Public Survey
- Michael Baker team completed topographic maps for the RAISE project sites and submitted project maps to RAISE team and Federal Transit Administration staff.
- RAISE project partners worked with Michael Baker team on the scheduling of Pop Up Event #1 that was held at the Cambria County Library on May 23 from 12:30-6:00. The event was scheduled around existing library events in order to capture input from senior citizens, families and other library patrons. City staff attended the event.
- City staff worked with RAISE project team to create and activate a page on the City's website dedicated exclusively to providing updates on the RAISE and Main Street projects.
- City received, reviewed, and paid invoices from Michael Baker for Section 106 and NEPA work. Invoices for this work are shared equally between the project partners.
- City staff coordinated with CamTran and a private property owner to conduct survey work at the CamTran transit center. Surveyor completed work and set pins on May 30th. City staff and CamTran met with the surveyor on site during the pin setting.
- City staff scheduled a project update meeting with Federal Transit Administration staff and Michael Baker team for June 1st.

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July 2023 RAISE Update

Released August 2, 2023

- City staff worked with SCAPE team on the development of public meetings to display three conceptual designs for the redevelopment of Main Street and Central Park Square. The project partners conceived three different project themes - Regional Catalyst, Conemaugh Green Line and Central Park Heart. The project themes and designs are based upon feedback received from the public during open house meetings in May.
- The SCAPE team presented the three conceptual project designs to the public on July 19th. The open house style presentation took place over four hours outside at Central Park Square. Members of the public were encouraged to provide feedback on the designs and tell the project team what they liked and/or disliked most about each of the conceptual designs. The goal of the open house was to generate feedback to be able to begin working on a final design that will be put before the public for feedback in comment towards the end of summer 2023. Over 150 comment cards were filled out by those who attended.
- The three conceptual plans were posted to City social media accounts and the City RAISE website.
- City staff sent correspondence to FTA Region III staff about the status of the RAISE agreement. The City is in the process of formalizing the RAISE award agreement with FTA Region III.
- City staff reviewed invoices from Michael Baker for the Section 106 and NEPA review work and forwarded equal share project invoices to project partners CamTran and JAHA. City staff reviewed invoicing from SCAPE and processed invoices for payment.
- City and SCAPE staff coordinated stakeholder meetings with event organizers, veterans groups, downtown business groups and individual property owners along Main Street. These meetings were held throughout July, with additional meetings scheduled in August.
- City staff researched and discussed the possibility of additional grant funding for the Central Park portion of the project with representatives from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.





**Scenes from the
public meetings in
Central Park
Square.**



For questions, please contact City of Johnstown Director of Community and Economic Development John Dubnansky at (814) 539-2504.



August 2023 RAISE Update

Released September 1, 2023

- The project team compiled and analyzed results from the July public meetings held to gather input on the Central Park and Main Street projects. Both the survey and in person survey results showed a clear preference for a comprehensive redesign of Central Park.
- Utilizing the public input from the July public meetings, the SCAPE team worked closely with City staff on the final Central Park/Main Street concept plan to be presented to the public on August 30th. The final concept plan was designed to reflect the public input that showed a clear preference for a comprehensive redesign of Central Park.
- City staff consulted with SCAPE and local Veterans groups during several in person meetings to determine the future location of the Veterans monuments currently in Central Park. The Civil War and 28th Military Police Company monuments will remain in Central Park. The group that oversees the Wars of the United States monument (Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership) decided to relocate the monument to Sandyvale Memorial Gardens.
- City staff updated the City RAISE webpage with information about the three design alternatives presented to the public at Central Park in July.
- City staff worked on completing a Financial Capacity Questionnaire, Technical Capacity Questionnaire, FTA Region 3 New Recipient Information, and Region 3 New Recipient Checklist; all required documents to be completed and submitted to FTA Region 3.
- City staff sent correspondence to FTA Region III staff about the status of the RAISE agreement. The City is in the process of formalizing the RAISE award agreement with FTA Region III.
- Project team members conducted marketing activities with SCAPE for the public workshop on August 30th.
- Project team members planned for and attended the August 30th public workshop.
- City staff reviewed invoices from Michael Baker for the Section 106 and NEPA review work and forwarded equal share project invoices to project partners CamTran and JAHA. City staff reviewed invoicing from SCAPE and processed invoices for payment.
- City staff welcomed the new JAHA Executive Director Patty Carnevali and provided her a status update on the RAISE projects.
- City and SCAPE staff coordinated additional stakeholder meetings with event organizers, downtown business groups and individual property owners along Main Street throughout the month of August. Efforts here will be focused on meeting with Main Street business and property owners in September.

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September 2023 RAISE Update

Released October 3, 2023

- The project partners held meetings with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to refine details contained within the scope of work for the transit center component of the RAISE project.
- The project team reviewed Section 106 environmental preservation review packages for the Incline Plane and Train Station from consultant Michael Baker prior to submittal to the Federal Transit Administration. Following the review of these documents, the packages were formally submitted by consultant Michael Baker to FTA.
- City staff reviewed invoices from Michael Baker for the Section 106 and NEPA review work and forwarded equal share project invoices to project partners CamTran and JAHA. City staff reviewed invoicing from SCAPE and processed invoices for payment.
- City staff worked together with the project partners to put together and publish an up-to-date list of Frequently Asked Questions to be posted on the RAISE grant website. Some of the FAQ topics will be the subject of future social media postings to increase public awareness of the project.
- City staff presented current status information about the RAISE grant projects during a September 13 visit from PA DCED officials visiting Johnstown to discuss community grant opportunities with local stakeholders.

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October 2023 RAISE Update

Released November 3, 2023

- The project partners held meetings and worked to provide an updated cost estimate and scope of work on the Transit Center component of the RAISE project to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for review. The RAISE project will be moving forward concurrently with CamTran's project to reimagine the transit center, and ultimately make significant investments and improvements to the transit center. The current transit center opened in 1983 and has not seen significant upgrades since that time.
- The project team met with the SCAPE design team to discuss initial design and engineering drawings for the Main Street and Central Park projects. The drawings are based upon the input received from the public, local business owners and community stakeholders earlier in the year. The SCAPE team shared visualizations of what the park and Main Street would look like following completion of the project.
- Further meetings will be scheduled concerning the Main Street and Central Park project components, with a goal of 50% design drawings being ready by the end of 2023. Further investigation is needed on the location of voids under buildings on Main Street, and how that potentially impacts tree planting and the location of other streetscape improvements. The Visit Johnstown branding strategy implementation committee will coordinate new wayfinding signage with signage to be included in the RAISE projects.
- City staff reviewed invoices from Michael Baker for the Section 106 and NEPA review work and forwarded equal share project invoices to project partners CamTran and JAHA. City staff reviewed invoicing from SCAPE and processed invoices for payment.
- City staff updated the RAISE project website to include fall project updates.

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November 2023 RAISE Update

Released December 4, 2023

- The project team worked with CamTran to develop a finalized scope of work and cost estimates for the transit center portion of the RAISE grant project, in order to submit to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the final Section 106 (historic preservation) and NEPA (environmental) reviews.
- CamTran facilitated and held a steering committee meeting on November 20th to discuss the long term redesign of the transit center property. This project is separate from the RAISE portion of the transit center work, which will take place along Main Street, but nonetheless is an important part of the Main Street corridor and provision of transit connections both regionally and in the City of Johnstown.
- City staff worked with FTA to develop a final scope of work and cost estimates for the urban connectivity portion of the RAISE project, including federal and non-federal funds.
- FTA found a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the inclined plane and urban connectivity portions of the RAISE projects. FTA provided Section 106 comments on the inclined plane and urban connectivity projects that are currently under review by the project team and consultants Michael Baker.
- City staff held a check in meeting with SCAPE ownership to discuss the overall direction of the Main Street/Central Park design and to provide feedback on several design related follow ups from the 30% design completion meeting in October. The follow ups related to the water feature in Central Park, project management and public engagement planning.
- Michael Baker began the process of responding to Section 106 review comments on the urban connectivity and inclined plane parts of the project, by providing updated environmental review forms and consulting party contact lists to FTA for review.
- City staff reviewed invoices from Michael Baker for the Section 106 and NEPA review work and forwarded equal share project invoices to project partners CamTran and JAHA. City staff reviewed invoicing from SCAPE and processed invoices for payment.
- City staff updated the RAISE project website to include fall project updates.

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December 2023 RAISE Update

Released January 10, 2024

- The project team submitted Section 106 consultation documents to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office for the Johnstown Inclined Plane Project.
- The project team also submitted Section 106 consultation documents to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office for the Urban Connectivity Project.
- The City Manager and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) staff held a meeting to discuss staff transition at the City as a result of the Community and Economic Development Director taking a new position effective December 2023. The City Manager and FTA discussed completion of the FTA new recipient process and Civil Rights requirements with regard to the City's Title VI Program and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.
- City staff worked on the development of the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and Public Participation Plans to comply with federal Title VI Program requirements.
- City staff worked with SCAPE consultants to discuss methods for the identification of locations along the Main Street corridor that have vaults underneath the sidewalk. SCAPE and City public works staff will be coordinating with a subcontractor that has ground penetrating radar to identify locations where voids are located.
- City staff worked with Rockland Consulting to provide assistance with the Federal Transit Administration's new recipient process, including the establishment of a TRAMS account for the City to administer the project.
- City and CamTran staff finalized the project scope for the Johnstown Transit Center Project component of the RAISE grant, for the purpose of submitting it to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation office for Section 106 review.
- The City Manager met with SCAPE subconsultant Thad Pawlowski to discuss the public participation process and schedule for 2024.
- City staff met with new Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA) board president Dan Solomon to provide a status update on the RAISE projects.
- City staff met with Amtrak on a coordination call to discuss the US Army Corps Section 408 application process, and Americans with Disabilities Act improvements at the train station.
- City staff updated the RAISE project website to include project updates. City staff also reviewed SCAPE and Michael Baker invoices and processed those for payment.
- City staff scheduled a meeting with PennDot Multimodal office staff to discuss PennDot administrative support for the RAISE project.

For questions, please contact City of Johnstown City Manager Ethan Imhoff at (814) 539-2504.



January 2024 RAISE Update

Released February 7, 2024

- City staff continued work on the development of the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and Public Participation Plans to comply with federal Title VI Program requirements.
- City staff held a meeting with the PennDot Multimodal Secretary and PennDot Executive Deputy Secretary to discuss the assignment of a PennDot consultant to assist the City with administrative of the RAISE project. During the call PennDot informed the City that administrative support would be forthcoming, and that details would be worked out over the next month. City staff held subsequent meetings with the Federal Transit Administration, CamTran and JAHA to brief their staff on this development.
- City staff obtained and tentatively approved a quote for the identification of voids and vaults underneath Main Street sidewalks. The work will be performed with ground penetrating radar in order to ensure that streetscape improvements are compatible with underlying ground conditions.
- City staff attended a steering committee meeting for the redesign of the CamTran Transit Center. City staff and CamTran agreed to an updated scope of work for the CamTran Transit Center component of the project that will combine Transit Center improvements on the Main Street side of the building. The area will be improved for pedestrian accessibility and better facilitate bus traffic in and out of the Transit Center.
- The project partners reviewed and provided comments to SCAPE on the 50% design and engineering plans for the Main Street part of the RAISE project. The next milestone will be 75% design plans that are due by the end of March.
- To continue public dialogue and engagement with the project, the SCAPE team presented a Main Street project status update to 175 attendees at the Cambria Regional Chamber's Economic Summit.
- City staff met with JAHA staff and Michael Baker team to go over the details and further refine the scope of work for the train station project.
- City staff updated the RAISE project website to include project updates. City staff also reviewed SCAPE and Michael Baker invoices and processed those for payment.

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February 2024 RAISE Update

Released March 1, 2024

- City staff worked with the SCAPE design team to ensure the Central Park design is compatible with the transportation and installation of the Christmas tree that is the focal point of holiday decorations installed by Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership during the holiday season.
- City staff followed up with the PennDot Executive Deputy Secretary to discuss the assignment of a PennDot consultant to assist the City with administrative of the RAISE project. PennDot informed the City that a contract is now finalized for administrative support and the consultant will be connecting with City and project partners in a few days.
- Two RAISE grant project components received categorically exempt status - the Urban Connectivity Project and Johnstown Inclined Plane.
- City staff continued work on the development of the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan and Public Participation Plans to comply with federal Title VI Program requirements. City staff submitted completed drafts of both plans to the Federal Transit Administration for review.
- City staff provided notice to proceed for work to begin by project consultant Transystems on work to identify voids and vaults underneath Main Street sidewalks. The work will be performed with ground penetrating radar in order to ensure that streetscape improvements are compatible with underlying ground conditions.
- City staff reviewed and evaluated options for parking payment kiosks along Main Street provided by the SCAPE design team.
- City staff participated in weekly project status meetings with the SCAPE design team. 75% completed construction documents are due March 15 for the Main Street/Central Park project components of the RAISE project.
- City staff coordinated with Federal Transit Administration to determine eligibility of Central Park components of the project for RAISE funding.
- City staff updated the RAISE project website to include project updates. City staff also reviewed SCAPE and Michael Baker invoices and processed those for payment.

For questions, please contact City of Johnstown City Manager Ethan Imhoff at (814) 539-2504.



March 2024 RAISE Update

Released April 16, 2024

- City staff worked to finalize research on the limits of rights-of-way along Main Street, mostly in the area of the Lee Hospital campus.
- City staff worked with its consultant team and FTA staff to set up a TrAMS account for the City to be able enter into the Paper Grant Agreement and to receive RAISE grant funding.
- SCAPE consultants provided the City with 75% design plans for the Main Street project component of the RAISE grant. Project partners have received the plans and been asked to provide feedback to facilitate a timely 100% plan submittal in June 2024.
- On March 25, City, CamTran and JAHA staff met in person with the consultant team from WSP. WSP is the consultant assigned by PennDot to provide administrative support to the project partners.
- WSP is working with JAHA on the composition of a final project description to be utilized in the development of Section 106 and NEPA clearance documents.
- City staff worked with SCAPE consultants on planning a final public information meeting to present the community with an opportunity to view the design plans for the Main Street project. This meeting will likely take place in May.
- City staff and the SCAPE project team discussed the public art component of the project and reviewed the status of the RFQ process designed to solicit ideas for public art along the Main Street corridor from local artists.
- Public Works staff met with the SCAPE design team and representatives from Discover Downtown Regional Partnership to discuss the 75% design plans and required clearances for setting up the Central Park Christmas tree during the holiday season.
- Coordination call was held with Amtrak to discuss the current status of their storm water piping project that will need to be coordinated with JAHA and the train station component of the RAISE grant project.
- City staff updated the RAISE project website to include project updates. City staff also reviewed SCAPE and Michael Baker invoices and processed those for payment.

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