

# Mountain Home

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## IMAGINE DOWNTOWN

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June 2019

### Funding the Project

Downtown revitalization projects have the ability to strengthen the economy, culture and history of a community. The City of Mountain Home's Economic Development Office took the project on in 2016 and have been working diligently with other departments and organizations to make it a reality.

From the early stages, it was imperative that the City of Mountain Home work with the City's Grant Writer, Urban Renewal Agency and Department of Commerce in order to fully fund this project. In November of 2018, the City applied for the Idaho Community Development Block Grant.



## Community Development Block Grant

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) presentation was delivered to the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) and members from Idaho Commerce, including the Director of Commerce, Director Kealey. Courtney Lewis presented the Downtown Improvement Project, introduced to the EAC by the President of City Council, Matt Bundy. Showing support for the project were members who have been integral in this grant process; Director of Public Works, Rich Urquidi, Grant Writer, Jamie McDaniel, Economic Development Specialist, Taylor Hurley, City Treasurer, Paula Szafranski, Horrocks members, Peggy Breski and Tim Sickles, and local business owner, Mary Grohs.

The show of overwhelming support for the project, aided in the approval from the EAC. After the approval from the EAC, the project went to the Governor's Office for final approval of funds. News of the awarded \$500,000 towards Phases II & III was delivered on May 2, 2019. The City will be moving forward in the next steps for the CDBG process.



### Phase I

After no bids were received for Phase I of the Downtown Improvement Project, local contractors were contacted to discuss the project. It was found that due to the complexity of the project, local contractors did not bid. This allowed the City of Mountain Home to seek out Guho Corp who attended the Pre-Bid Meeting, showing prior interest in the project. The City of Mountain Home is in contract with Guho Corp and currently diving into the plans and pre-construction portion. Although we are still working out timelines, construction on North Main St will tentatively begin late August. Stay tuned! As soon as we nail down timelines, we will be sure to share the latest details!!



When it comes to downtown project experience, Guho Corp is no stranger. They've recently taken on and completed the Twin Falls Downtown Project and consistently work with Capitol City Development Core (CCDC). Some of the projects with CCDC that you may have seen are renovations to the Grove Plaza and streetscapes within the City of Boise's downtown area. Guho Corp is known for their involvement with complex projects and their hands-on approach with businesses. They deliver the best level of customer service, working closely with businesses and neighbors potentially effected by development or construction. Delivering quality projects to be proud of is their specialty.



## North 2nd East Street

Phase II & III, scheduled to take place in spring/summer of 2020 and completed by spring of 2021, has experienced continual evolution. Starting with the current condition of North 2nd East Street, going from the original rendering and ending with the updated and accurate rendering of North 2nd, the changes have remained fluid. These changes came as a result of citizen input, expert opinions from engineers, contractors and project managers, and the feasibility and sustainability of the plan.

The intent of the Downtown Improvement Project is to correct neglected infrastructure that is original to the town, dating back to the 1950-1960's. By addressing this issue in the downtown area, it opened doors for further improvements with the ability to enhance the commercial district and its very environment.



Over the years, the downtown area developed into a bustling area for dining, shopping and lingering. It served as a local gathering place that was heavily trafficked by both pedestrians and vehicles. Mom and pop shops were booming, complete with proud store owners ready to help. With the rise of big box retail, these family-owned businesses suffered. Fortunately, times are changing. The demand of personalized products and services allows mom and pop shops to make a comeback in the best way.

The Downtown Improvement Project has the ability to act as a catalyst to reinvigorate the commercial district, spurring new businesses and the health and viability of existing businesses.



Interested in updating your facade?! There is a grant for that. The Downtown Beautification Grant allows businesses to make permanent improvements that will enhance the appearance of their facility. The city may pay the owner up to 49%, up to \$500, whichever is less, for the approved permanent, exterior project or improvement.

Stop by the Economic Development Office for a grant application today!!



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