



*Small Town with a  
Big Backyard!*

# CITY OF BISHOP

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## **Public Works News Release**

### **A Piece of Warren Street in the Fall of 2014**

Construction of the first part of the City of Bishop Warren Street Improvements project is now planned for the Fall of 2014. This first part of the project to be constructed will be the center portion of the project.

Over the last year and a half, a group of dedicated individuals have put together a vision for the project that can be seen in drawings available at the city website. This vision is a street attractive to pedestrians, shoppers, and businesses that will serve the Bishop community for many decades to come. Next year's construction will put in place most of the key project features like pavement, sidewalks, lights, and trees in the middle portion of the project, but important parts of the group's overall concept - and construction throughout the full length of the project - will probably have to wait.

The Warren Street project is generally planned to improve the full length of Warren Street with new pavement, curb, sidewalk, street trees, street lights, and other improvements. The project is planned to include pocket parks, seating areas, colored concrete with designs, landscaping, banners, bike racks, restrooms, and shade trees. These additional features are thought to add a lot of value to the project at a relatively small additional cost. The additional cost of these items is estimated to be about 15% of the project cost. The blocks of South, Lagoon, Church, Academy, Pine, and Elm streets between Warren and Main are also included in the overall project.

Even though construction is slated to begin in the fall of 2014, the project faces several challenges. These challenges include challenges related to funding and challenges related to the relocation of overhead utilities and poles.

With a recovering economy, construction costs are rising. Recent estimates of the cost to construct the project exceed \$4 million while only about \$2.1 million is currently available. Gas

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Warren Street Improvements

tax funding, the primary funding source on the project, is available in cycles about 2 years apart. Because of large expenditures expected on the Olancha Four Lane project on Highway 395 in coming years, little money is expected to be available for local projects in Inyo county such as Warren Street. So, instead of waiting for more funding to be available in 6 to 8 years and instead of allowing costs to increase further, the city has decided to implement as much of the project as it can as soon as it can and this means the initial construction the fall of next year. To match available funding, initial construction will consist of the center portion of the project. In addition, because some of parts of the project such as banners, archways, and art installations can't be funded with gas tax money, those parts of the project will be deferred as well. The center portion to be constructed next year will probably be Warren Street from Lagoon to Pine, including the blocks of Church, Academy, and Pine Streets between Warren and Main street.

The City of Bishop is working with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) to relocate poles and overhead utilities on the Warren Street project. This relocation is needed to get the poles out of the way of the new street construction and intended to allow for large shade trees and to improve the aesthetics of Warren Street. Unfortunately it is possible the street construction will move forward prior to the relocation of the overhead utilities.

Final engineering of the project will proceed over the next several months. Look forward to additional news releases for updates on the project.

For more information contact City of Bishop Public Works at [publicworks@ca-bishop.us](mailto:publicworks@ca-bishop.us) or 760-873-8458.