

Maple Street Improvements FAQ

A partnership for safe, multi-modal, equitable access



*Design rendering of planned Maple Street improvements.
(U of A Community Design Center, 2019)*

"This project will have significant local and regional impact as it both accommodates and encourages the growing number of university affiliates, citizens, and visitors that choose alternative and active transportation modes."

***- Dr. Charles Robinson, Chancellor,
University of Arkansas***

Project Summary

The Maple Street improvement project is a full redesign of the half-mile corridor between the Razorback Regional Greenway and Garland Avenue that will create a safer, more inclusive transportation route for all users. Key goals include improving pedestrian infrastructure, adding a two-way protected bike path, addressing drainage issues, reducing speeding and beautifying the street. The initiative enjoys broad support from city, university, regional, and federal stakeholders.

What initiated this project?

Improvements to Maple Street, including the construction of a dedicated bicycle facility, were recognized as a key strategy in the University of Arkansas Campus Transportation Plan. This project was also designated as a catalyst in both the NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and the Fayetteville Mobility Plan. With these enhancements, Maple Street will offer a safe and convenient connection between the campus and the Razorback Regional Greenway, enhancing access to the extensive network of paved and soft surface trails that stretch across Northwest Arkansas.

How is this project being funded?

Through a competitive process, this project was awarded \$7.5million by the U.S. Department of Transportation 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. Any remaining cost will be shared by the City of Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas, who have partnered closely on this project over the past decade.

Why is Maple Street being rebuilt?

Maple Street, a vital link between the University of Arkansas and the Razorback Regional Greenway, holds significant importance as an iconic campus street. However, it currently faces challenges with inconsistent street cross sections and deteriorating infrastructure. To address these issues, the project aims to enhance the safety and comfort of all users by incorporating right-sized travel lanes, a greenspace buffer, improved crosswalks, new senior walks on both sides, and a two-way bicycle path.

What good will this project do for campus?

This project will enhance safety and accessibility along Maple Street for all users, regardless of which mode of transportation they choose to use. The Maple Street improvements will significantly enhance the corridors' visual appeal, providing everyday users and visitors a more enjoyable route through campus. In addition, renovation of Maple Street will provide a long-awaited connection between campus and the Razorback Regional Greenway.

What is the expected timeline for this project?

The expected timeline to complete this project is approximately two years. Construction would be prioritized during times when campus is the least active, such as summer break and winter break.

What is the current status of this project?

Construction of the eastern stretch of Maple Street, between Gregg and Leverett, is nearing completion. The remaining stretch, from Leverett to Garland, will be under construction during the summer of 2026.

What are the environmental benefits of this project?

By increasing the amount of permeable greenspace and improving facilities to support multi-modal transportation, the Maple Street improvements will display significant improvements to air quality and storm water management. Native plants will be incorporated as part of the projects' landscape plans, providing important habitats for pollinators. In addition, improved sidewalks and a two-way bike lane will encourage greater use of biking, walking, and other low impact modes of transportation.

What are the social benefits of this project?

Connectivity improvements will provide greater access to educational facilities, health care centers, essential services, and other essential destinations. The Maple Street improvements aim to remove transportation barriers by making the street and connected side paths accessible to all modes of transportation. Doing so provides more equitable access to under-served and disadvantaged residents in the area.

What are the economic benefits of this project?

A 30-year benefit-cost analysis was conducted in accordance with the methodology outlined by the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Benefit-Cost Analysis Guidance for Discretionary Grant Programs" document. This analysis identified a 272% return on investment expected from the Maple Street project through healthcare savings due to increased active transportation use, cost savings due to fewer collisions, reduced vehicle miles traveled, and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 10,396 metric tons.