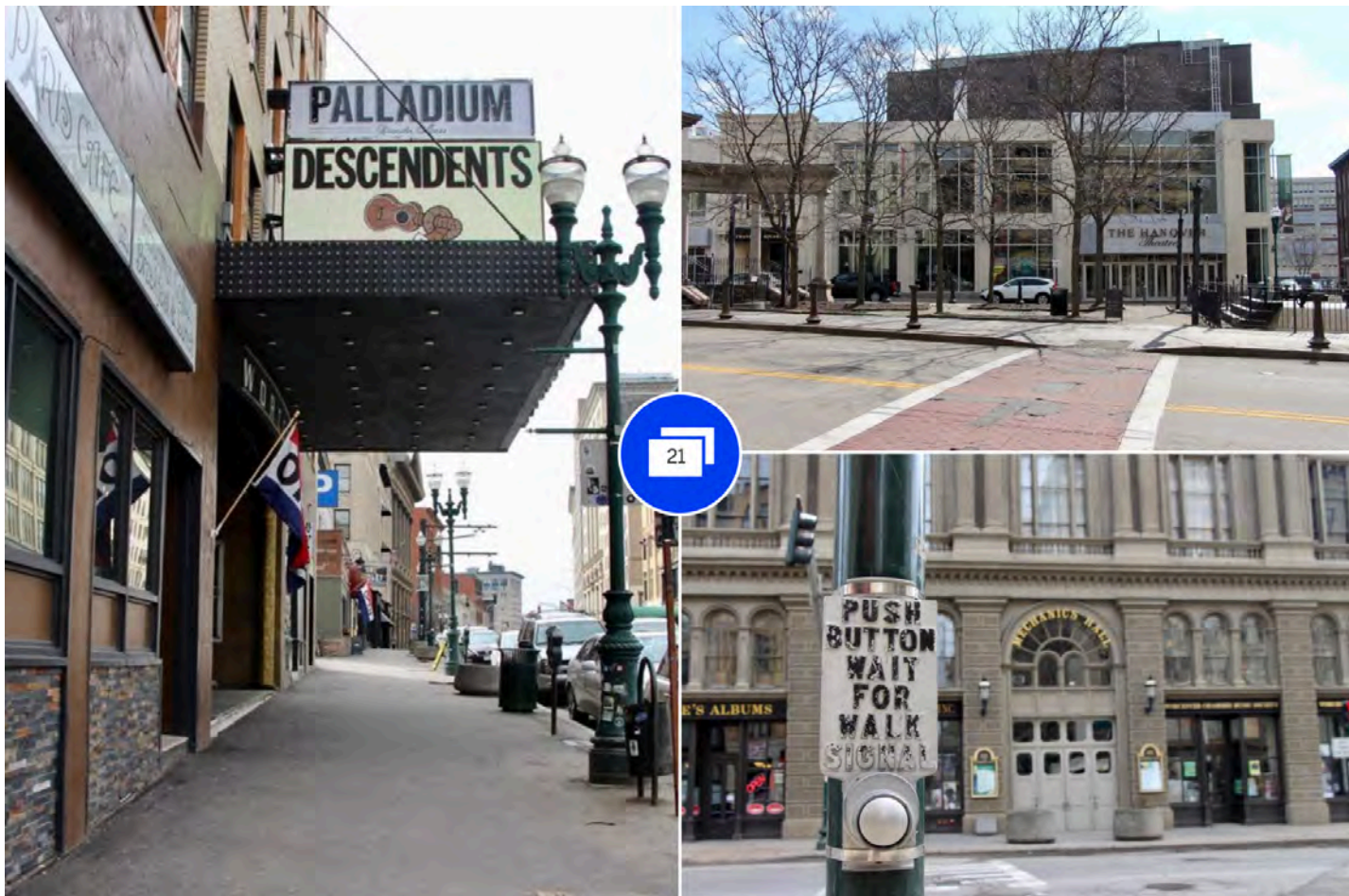


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Here's how Worcester plans to use \$11M and three performing arts venues to transform Main Street

masslive.com | Posted on April 3, 2018by Aviva Luttrell aluttrell@masslive.com

Worcester's Main Street is set to undergo an \$11 million renovation this summer that will focus on three "nodes" in front of the Palladium, Mechanics Hall and the Hanover Theatre.

New brick-banded crosswalks, public art installations and dedicated bike lanes are just some of the features coming to Worcester's Main Street when the city begins an \$11 million renovation this summer.

The top-to-bottom reconstruction is expected to take about two years, according to the city's website. It will focus on three main "nodes" in front of the Hanover Theatre, the Palladium and Mechanics Hall.

The project will run from the Lincoln Square area to Chandler and Madison streets.

"If you walk right now from The Hanover to deadhorse hill, you see a lot of blank spaces and when you see blank spaces, you don't have that sense of safety and security," City Manager Edward Augustus said.

The project includes new streets, new sidewalks, new ornamental lighting, a dedicated bike lane, brick-banded crosswalks and public art installations that serve as place-making features.

Augustus said the entire plaza in front of the Federal Courthouse will be redesigned.

"We're going to take the plaza and run that right up to the front of the theater. We're going to create a nice public art element there - there's going to be a whole theme throughout the street," he said.

"We're going to do something similar next to Mechanics Hall there's a little setback there next to where the parking lot is, that's going to be another green node and across from the Palladium we've got something else, so we're trying to play off of the three cultural venues on Main Street."

The city and its Cultural Coalition are working with the Urban Culture Institute on the project, which will also include public amenities like bus shelters, trash receptacles, benches and bike racks that are not only functional, but art themselves.

Erin Williams, cultural development officer for Worcester and executive director of the Worcester Cultural Coalition, said a call to artists will go out within the next few months, and more information about the project will be released at that time.

She said the project is state-funded.

Worcester has been in the midst of a [renaissance](#) of development, dining and culture in the past several years and the downtown has been the epicenter.

Two sets of preliminary design plans for the Main Street project can be found [here](#) and [here](#).