



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2021

TO: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu  
Board of Public Works  
ECD  
Park Board

FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Route 72 – Riverside Ave & Divinity Street Streetscape Improvements

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The engineering firm of GM2, will be presenting the attached study, which was commissioned to evaluate and provided recommendation associated with streetscape improvements to Riverside Ave (Main St to Blakeslee/Downs) and Park St (Divinity St to Muzzy Field). The proposed plan does not consist of a complete streetscape project, similar to improvements constructed on North Main St. and Main Street. Rather, the streetscape improvements on Riverside Street and Park Street can be classified as streetscape “light” and would consist of a number of streetscape improvements features, designed to upgrade the roadway.

### RIVERSIDE AVENUE

Based on the report, the estimated cost to install: new concrete walks, curbing, driveway aprons, approximately 150 trees, lighting on the north side of the street, brick paver crosswalks and stamped asphalt tree border, would be \$4.2 million. Riverside Avenue is a State road, therefore the estimated cost of \$4.2 million does not include paving the roadway. It is anticipated roadway paving will be completed by the CTDOT. In addition, as indicated in the report, there may be potential avenues of funding available through the State. In order to reduce the project cost, the scope of the project can be reduced. Such as through the elimination of a stamped concrete pole border (\$1.5 million) or brick paver crosswalks (\$80,000). However, the Department of Public Works does not recommend elimination of the referenced items and request the following Board of Public Works action:



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**Move to authorize the Department of Public Works to pursue potential State funding and use of American Rescue Plan Act funding to construct streetscape improvements on Riverside Avenue (Main St to Blakeslee/ Downs Street), in the amount of \$4.2 million.**

In addition to the approval and authorization from the State, consent and action by property owners is also required to improve the corridor. The property action would consist of reducing the width of existing curb cuts and potentially building façade improvements.

#### PARK STREET

Based on the report, the estimated cost for improvements on Park Street, from the DOT's West End Intersection Project to Muzzy Field, is approximately \$1.3 million. Similar to the scope on Riverside, work consist of sidewalks, stamped concrete pole border, trees and street lighting. As with Riverside Avenue, the work does not include paving the roadway. The Department of Public Works request the following action:

**Move to authorize the Department of Public Works to pursue potential State funding and use of American Rescue Plan Act funding, to construct streetscape improvements on Park Street (West End to Muzzy Field), in the amount of \$1.9 million.**

Of the two projects, Park Street and Riverside Avenue, the DPW rates improvement to Riverside Avenue as a higher priority, due to the current condition of Riverside Avenue, the amount of traffic and the gateway nature of the Riverside Avenue corridor.

Please feel free to contact me with any question or to obtain a hard copy of the report at 860-584-6113.