



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 5, 2024

TO: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Board of Public Works

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

RE: STREETScape PROJECT UPDATE – PARK ST (West End to Rockwell Park) & RIVERSIDE AVE (Main St to Blakeslee St)

The Department of Public Works continues to work with GM2 Engineers on the streetscape design for CT Route 72. As previously reported, the streetscape will be constructed in two projects as two separate contracts consisting of: Riverside Ave (Blakeslee St to Main St), and Park St (DOT West End westerly project limits to Muzzy Field). Project design costs of \$529,000 are funded with City appropriations, however, construction will be funded with State of Connecticut funds. The CT DOT has committed to provide \$12,600,000 to cover roadway improvements, drainage, granite curbing, and concrete sidewalks, as well as right of way costs on Riverside Avenue. No CT DOT funds are available for work on Park Street or construction of streetscape improvements on Riverside Avenue. Funding of streetscape improvements will be provided through the Connecticut Community Investment Fund (CIF) of \$6,800,000 obtained by the Mayor. Since CT Route 72 is a state road, construction of the streetscape project will require DOT approval for both the Riverside ave and Park St sections of the project.

GM2 Engineers is scheduled to update the Board of Public Works and present the current design at its July 18, 2024 meeting, and will be scheduling a public information meeting to present the project in September of 2024. A summary of the current status and areas of concerns are provided below:

Park Street – CT Route 72 (DOT West End project to Muzzy Field)

The Park Street (CT Route 72) section of the streetscape project, from the CT DOT's West End (CT Route 72 & 69) to Muzzy Field, will be constructed solely as a streetscape project. No roadway geometry improvements are proposed. The existing road width, 26 to 29 ft., will remain. State standard is 30 ft.

The project will consist of new 5 ft. wide concrete sidewalks with a 3 ft. red brick installed in the pole border (area between curb and front of concrete sidewalk). The proposed Park Street streetscape will utilize a red brick pole border in lieu of the yellow stamped concrete used by the CT DOT as part of the West End intersection project. The project will also include granite curbing, ornamental street lighting, and street trees. **Due to low overhead utilities, NO street trees are proposed within the right of way on the south side of the Park St.** However, DPW will be requesting permission from the southern property owners to plant trees behind the sidewalk on private property to provide trees.

On the referenced section of Park Street, no reduction of curb cut widths are proposed as part of the streetscape project. As part of the project, DPW is proposing the removal of the existing mid-block crosswalk located in front the former O'Connell School. CT DOT approval (an encroachment permit) is required for all project work on Park St. If the CT DOT does not approve the removal of the mid-block crosswalk, DPW will propose the installation of a pedestrian PRFP (self-actuating pedestrian light) at the crossing. CT DOT may also express concerns and require a reduction of driveway curb cuts and new pedestrian traffic signal controls at Tulip and Park Street.

The updated Park Street Streetscape plan is available on the Department's website (Departments, Public Works, Divisions, Engineering, Streetscape Riverside Ave & Divinity St/Park St, Park Street Streetscape Update/Preliminary Design Statement) and via the link below:

<http://ct-bristol2.civicplus.com/1070/Streetscape-Riverside-Ave-Divinity-StPar>

The City's engineering design consultant is scheduled to attend the Board's July 18, 2024 meeting to provide a presentation of the plans. Community/property owner outreach is scheduled for September.

Riverside Ave (Blakeslee St to Main St)

The Riverside Ave (CT Route 72) section of the streetscape project from Main St to Blakeslee Street will be constructed as a combined roadway improvement project with the CT DOT. It will include modifications to the roadway sections, travel lanes, intersections, traffic signals, radii, as well as a reduction to curb cuts, and streetscape improvements (granite curb, brick pole borders, concrete walks, ornamental lights with streetscape pattern, and trees). The project will also include the replacement of the existing retaining wall located on the east end of Riverside Avenue along the Pequabuck River.

The Riverside Ave section of the streetscape will be constructed in accordance with DPW's streetscape specifications utilized for North Main (Center St to CT Route 6), Riverside Ave (School St to Main St), and Main St. One of the primary objectives of both the City and CT DOT will be to reduce curb cuts/driveway openings on Riverside Ave, however, most owners typically prefer wide driveways. An additional challenge will be the installation of trees on the south side of the roadway. Due to overhead wires, trees will need to be planted outside the State's right of way. Similar to Park Street, DPW proposes the planting of trees behind the sidewalk on private property. However, the availability of space to plant trees is limited. The CT DOT may have concerns with locating trees larger than 4-inches in diameter within the pole border.

The design schedule for the Riverside Avenue Streetscape has been delayed approximately 3 weeks due to the need to update the traffic study (vehicle counts) at the intersection of East St and Riverside Ave. Traffic counts could not be performed while Mellen St was closed, and must be completed prior to the closure of East St Bridge replacement. In addition, CT DOT review and approval of the proposed soil boring program is pending. Although design has been delayed, DPW anticipates the start of construction in the fall of 2026, with substantial completion in 2027.



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

A concept plan previously provided to the Board is available on the Department's website (Public Works, Divisions, Engineering, Streetscape Study Riverside & Park St, Riverside Streetscape Update) and via the link below:

http://ct-bristol2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/47110/40968_Riverside-DRAFT-PD-Plans?bidId=

The City's engineering design consultant is scheduled to attend the Board's July 18, 2024 meeting to provide a brief update and be available to address any questions the Board may have on the Riverside Avenue Streetscape project.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 860-584-6113.