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East Hartford Silver Lane Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

4:00 pm

Welling Conference Room – 2nd floor Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT - Mayor Leclerc; Robin Pearson, Redevelopment Agency; James Matos, The Matos Group; Val Povinelli, Planning and Zoning Commission; Tom York, Goman and York; Craig Stevenson, CTC; Emily Hultquist, Caitlin Palmer, Mike Cipriano, CRCOG; Casey Hardin, Nicholas Mandler and Pat Padlo, Transystems; Paul Mainuli, Board of Education; Eileen Buckheit, Development Director; Jeff Cormier, Town Planner; Rich Gentile, Assistant Corporation Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Eileen Buckheit provided an update on development progress in East Hartford:

- Demolition work has begun at Showcase Cinemas and should be completed within 60 days (contract allows for 90 though).
- Town has hired JCJ Architects to provide a conceptual design for redevelopment of the parcel and will be working to rebrand site as something other than “Showcase Cinemas” site. JCJ’s initial findings confirm the Milone & McBroom recommendation for number of residential units that could be developed there.
- A new gas station development has also been proposed for 249-257 Silver Lane.

Emily Hultquist provided a brief introduction for the presentation and the work completed since the last Advisory Committee meeting. Notably the completion of the VIP repaving opportunity that successfully implemented the “road diet” recommended by the study. Mayor Leclerc confirmed that her office has received positive response on this change from the community.

TranSystems went through the presentation, discussing elements of the final plan and highlighting the changes since the last AC meeting and comments from our DOT meeting, including:

- 10’ wide shared-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians on both sides of the road
- Incorporation of some raised, landscape medians (further to the east to avoid two-lane needs of Rentschler Field area)
- Increase in “buffer” on sidewalk from 2’ to 3’, where possible, per DOT comments to better accommodate snow removal
- The possibility to try to coordinate with DOT on changing the geometry of the Route 15 on-ramp to take advantage of the Charter Oak/91 work
- Potential for roundabout received positively by DOT to reduce future queueing issues on the Route 15 off-ramp onto Silver Lane
- Potential for on-street, parallel parking solution on Silver Lane opposite side of Carl’s BBQ to offset a reduction in parking immediately in front of Carl’s to provide improved pedestrian facilities and angled parking
- Shifting some midblock crossings to existing intersections where that makes sense
- Incorporation of bus pull-off locations for the four CTfastrak stops, which was supported by DOT, particularly in light of the new traffic lane configuration

Emily Hultquist provided a brief overview on possible funding sources/opportunities that the Town could apply for in order to get the final plan constructed.

Consultant and CRCOG answered questions pertaining to the design. Some key takeaways from this final feedback were:

- Potential for additional work/analysis – how to connect and make East River Drive more desirable for bikes and pedestrians (possible to explore a road diet extension); Main Street is wide and what can be done there to facilitate bicyclist and pedestrian mobility

- Can TranSystems provide to the Town some information/studies demonstrating how lane reduction and shared center turn lane improve traffic safety and operations
- The Town should ensure that CTDOT takes similar measurements (like Brewer Street roadway changes) to collect before/after data for Silver Lane

Advisory Committee was invited to attend final public meeting and open house scheduled that evening at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting concluded 5:05 pm.