

Riverside Avenue Public Information
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2025 Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public works called the meeting to order. He explained the purpose of the project and introduced the presenters from Gm2, as well as Justin Malley, Executive Director of Economic Development and Dawn Leger, Grant Writer, Economic Development. Public Participation will be opened up after the presentation for any questions.

3. Riverside Streetscape Presentation

a. Riverside Streetscape Improvements

Paul Brand, GM2 Associates, Project Manager, reviewed the title six notifications of the project and explained the compliant form and where it is located on the Department of Transportation's website. He reviewed the studies which were done for the project. He explained the purpose of the project is to improve the safety, access management, pedestrian accommodations and aesthetic qualities along route 72 corridor. He reviewed funding for the project.

Danielle Dixon, GM2 Associates, Project Engineer, gave a presentation of the project from design phase to construction and completion.

Zachary Guarino, Right of Way Coordinator, DOT, reviewed the Acquisition Process for property owners and how the process works.

Danielle Dixon, GM2 Associates, Project Engineer, continued with the incorporation of the Pequabuck River Trail Project within the Riverside Avenue Project. She reviewed design standard and elements used for the proposed designs.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., stated that the presentation is now open for comments and discussions and to please give your name and address for the recording. The presentation will be posted on the city website.

2. Public Participation

Jim Harris, 258 & 260 Riverside Avenue, owner of Creative Auto, spoke regarding his concern of the road disappearing into the fog and when driving at night as you drive down the road, it cannot be seen at all. He has worked with Joe Tribuzio from Eversource to get signs and arrows put on the poles. I have worked with the state to get signage as well and they did agree to put an arrow on my property and now the sign has disappeared.

Paul Brand, GM2, Project Manager, responded that the realignment would be pulling the curb and create a softer horizontal curb there and wider bend to carry them through the intersection.

Robert Cohen, 211 Riverside Ave, asked if the wires could be buried underground versus moving poles. He also mentioned the neighbors at Alloy Welding and that their fence is very close to the road so

moving the driveway will make the view pulling out way worse. He also mentioned that the Sessions Building might be the ugliest property in the city and the Dodge Building looks terrible and fixing the road won't help unless they do something to these properties.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that the Sessions property is being developed and Dodge Properties and the owner does have a site plan that was approved by the city to be developed.

Gary Plonsko, 370,380 and 400 Riverside Avenue, stated what about the parking lots and driveways of the last properties that were not shown near the boulevard. Can you show those near Family Roots and next door?

Paul Brand, GM2 Associates, stated that those locations are where we cannot take away the whole curb cut. The sidewalk would carry thru the front of the roadway and be integral to the driveway and drive over it. It would be a concrete driveway apron with a flatter surface at the back of it so that pedestrians can walk at the street level. No lighting fixtures in that area. A side driveway at 380 Riverside would be shortened slightly with a small sidewalk and paver so driveways can get in that area. These are all influx and these can all be moved if needed.

Scott Boulanger, 450 Riverside Avenue, most people use their driveway as a walk thru already.

Paul Brand, GM2, stated that hopefully the sidewalk will make it more inviting to people to use.

Alfred Morrocco, 200 Summer Street, asked if it was possible if they can bury the power lines because they do deteriorate over time.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, responded we do look at that at every project, and that it was cost prohibited.

Paul Brand, GM2, asked that if anyone that did not speak to please sign in just for the state record.

Shygyri Hysesani, 134 Main Street, IRI Infinite Realty Investments, stated that his property gets flooding in the basement and that there is no ability to have Wi-Fi in the building. There is also a parking issue on the sides of the building as there is no room for any.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that storm drainage is being installed including catch basins so it won't drain onto the property. In regards to the internet service you should recontact the internet provider as the city will be in contact with the utilities and there may be opportunities to add a conduit to the poles but ultimately the internet provider would do that. The city will reach out regarding the parking issue specifically about your property for parking.

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Work