

Present: **14 Zoom Participants:**

The meeting began at 6:30 pm

Stephanie Brooks with CT DOT (their firm is FHI Studio which is now IMEG) gave an update on alternatives that they are looking at inclusive of a utility equity portion (sidewalks, transit, ADA accessibility). Stephanie along with other CT DOT representatives held stake holder meetings throughout Stamford. Stephanie emphasized completing the I-95 survey that can be accessed on the City of Stamford web site:

<https://fhistudio.surveyparrot.com/s/I-95-Stamford-PEL-Mobility--Access-Survey/tt-5nH3d>

Stephanie mentioned that PAC meetings will be coming in October, and she hoped that many of the NRZ members will attend. Stephanie opened the floor for questions and feedback.

Sue Halpern mentioned that when you get off I-95 at exit 7 to take a left, it's awful when people are stuck in the box waiting for the light to turn.

Stepahine stated they are looking at options and other alternatives.

Question-Sheila Barney: Will plans be available for viewing prior to the PAC meetings?

Answer-Stephanie Brooks: As PAC members we will be able to see the plans to give feedback, but she will have to inquire with DOT if the plans can be viewed prior to the PAC meetings. The plans will be available at the PAC meetings.

Sheila Barney inquired about the number of surveys received from South End residents.

Bonnie Torres stated she can check for the number of surveys received from the South End residents.

Question-Sheila Barney: What about the traffic lights allowing cars to turn at the same time as pedestrians are in the crosswalks adhering to the crossing sign?

Answer-Bonnie Torres: This issue is repetitive so DOT will be looking at this issue.

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Question-Sue Halpern: When will the I-95 project be finished?

Answer-Stephanie Brooks: She is not sure.

Sue Halpern mentioned the intersection between Pulaski Street and Washington Blvd that around 5:30pm when people get out of work it is congested. Merging seems to be the issue allowing cars to go straight.

Stephanie mentioned the possibility of adding another lane.

Lynn Brooks suggested painting an I-95 shield in a lane so people know that lane is for I-95 under the bridge on Washington Blvd.

Question- Sheila Barney: Can DOT look at making the bike lanes leading into the Waterside safer? Cars are parked on both sides with the bike lanes close to the parked cars and the lanes are very narrow putting the biker at risk.

Answer-Stephanie Brooks: They are looking at bike lanes but want to make sure they will be looking at that area.

Lynn Brooks mentioned another issue on Washington Blvd traveling north just pass Henry Street, the cars are parked, and they are sticking out of the lane. Stephanie emphasized enforcement if the cars are not supposed to be parked at that location.

Question-Sheila Barney: Are they looking at the bottlenecks when you're trying to get on I-95 from Atlantic Street and Washington Blvd?

Answer-Stephanie: That's huge! Washington Blvd, Tresor Blvd are corridors that they have been looking at and have several alternatives.

Elizabeth McCauley mentioned that when you get off exit 7 from I-95 and you turn onto Atlantic Street, you must get all the way over to the left lane to stay straight. People don't really know to do that until they realize they are not turning into the train station. Maybe signage would help. Stephanie stated signage could be an option.

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Janeene Freeman Mayors Special Assistant for Community Engagement & Partnerships. Provided a presentation and an update on all the progress that has happened since June 10th at the Lathan Wider Community Center ([South End NRZ Lathan Wider Update](#)). Janeene was joined by Scott Butch the Director of Facilities for the City of Stamford. Janeene mentioned they are hoping to have the center opened anywhere between now and the end of October.

Scott Butch -Director of Facilities for the City of Stamford gave updates:

- The boilers are currently on site and in place in the mechanical room in the basement.
- The electrical switch gear was the biggest concern in getting the equipment on site. Waiting for sign off from Eversource on the demo permit to demo the existing CT cabinet. Once they get the permit the electrical subcontractor can begin to install the new electrical switch gear. This will take about 2-weeks best scenario hoping within the next 3-weeks the building will be kind of up with the power back on. Hoping to get the building up and running by October.
- Lathan Wider was part of the 12-building package approved for LED lighting replacement worth \$250,000. This will bring a massive Eversource incentive back to the City of Stamford.

Question-Sheila Barney: Since the South End Center is in the middle of our community and serves a large number of people in comparison to the Boys & Girls Club, how are they funded?

Answer-Janeene Freeman: They get a lot of private funding. There are certain parts of their budget that is included with the city and the city provide support, but they do a lot of fundraising and get funding from other sources.

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Question-Sheila Barney: Is there something that can be done to help the South End Center be on the same funding level as the Boys & Girls Club?

Answer-Janeene Freeman: We will do our best to identify resources to the extent that we have certain projects. Janeene suggested as a community group they could use our input and advocacy at the city.

Question-John Wooten: Is there a way to get federal funding?

Answer-Janeene Freeman: The grant department get notices of funding to the extent that something lines up. There are No Guarantees, but they will do their best.

Question-John Wooten: Is the LED lighting included on the outside of the building around the basketball courts and the parking lot?

Answer-Scott Butch: Yes, this will be replacing existing lighting on the exterior of the building. He believes there was some new lighting installed but he will double check.

Question-John Wooten: Is your scope of work for the basketball court professional?

Answer-Scott Butch: I am working closely with Mike from Full Court Peace to get up the plexiglass backboards. Paving of the lines on the basketball court will be professionally done.

John Wooten inquired about the mini playground that is near the entranceway where people go to vote. Scott stated he is half familiar with it but he can go back to the administrative side to get more information.

Question-Sue Halpern: Are there going to be ambulance service and ambulances on site?
Is Rosco going to have Lathan Wider as a Satellite or is Rosco going to move from Lockwood Avenue to Lathan Wider?

Answer-Scott Butch: Stamford EMS is planning to have an EMS ambulance at Lathan Wider. They will have a permanent parking area outside the pull up garage.

Answer-Janeene Freeman: Right now Rosco is looking at their administrative offices to be located at Lathan Wider.

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Question-Sue Halpern: Is the library going to have a larger space or still occupy the same space they were in before?

Answer-Janeene Freeman: We are looking at expanding the library space due to the success of the programming that they were doing in the Waterside.

Question-Sue Halpern: Have work been done on the ventilation system or is it in the plans?

Answer-Scott Butch: There currently is no ventilation in any of the ancillary spaces.

Sue mentioned getting the businesses in the South End involved in fundraising for the Lathan Wider community center.

Question-Sheila Barney: Who would do the leg work in the city to get funding from private developers and federal grants?

Answer-Janeene Freeman: Specific projects have been identified and federal grants they might apply for internally through the city grants department with the help of staff.

Question-Sheila Barney: Will the center be open for November voting or will they have to go to the government center?

Answer-Janeene Freeman: I think that is still being decided. We are hoping the building will be open, but the contingency plan is the government center.

Question-John Wooten: Is any funding going toward the facilities inside the gym?

Answer-Scott Butch: If you are referring to the old gym on the playground side I believe there is some funding in place.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm