

Department of Transportation

Town of Stratford
Project 138-226
Stratford Railroad Station Surface Parking Expansion Projects

Public Information Meeting Held at
Stratford Town Hall
2725 Main St
Stratford, Connecticut
May 19, 2011

Minutes

Present:

CTDOT

Scott A. Hill, PE – Manager of Bridges and Facilities

Theodore H. Nezames – Principal Engineer, Facilities Design

John W. Waleszczyk – Project Manager

Joseph S. Bordonaro – Project Engineer

Derrick P. Ireland – Property Agent

Presentation:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor John A. Harkins provided an introduction. Mr. John Waleszczyk provided a brief overview of the projects. Mr. Joseph Bordonaro provided a detailed presentation of the parking expansion projects. The formal presentation ended with Mr. Derrick Ireland explaining the property acquisition process that is required for the Phase 2 parking expansion projects. Following the presentation was an informal question and answering periods.

Public Comments and Questions:

One property owner discussed that the Department of Transportation (Department) is in the process of acquiring his property. The property owner expressed concerns of finding a new property for his practice and his affiliation with Yale-New Haven Hospital in the Stratford area. The Department expressed appreciation for the property owner's efforts to provide an alternate plan for the design of the Phase 2 parking expansion and discussed that the alternate is undergoing evaluation.

It was discussed that previous meetings for parking expansion centered around construction of a parking garage. The Department pointed out that an analysis was completed in order to find additional needed parking in lieu of a proposed parking garage project that was postponed due to lack of funding.

The timeframe for the Department to acquire an easement through Bally's property was questioned and it was stated that the first step to acquiring an easement is a public

informational meeting, and the Department will now move forward with negotiations for the easement.

A question was asked how much the waiting list for parking permits will be reduced based on the proposed parking expansion and Mayor Harkins answered a 70% reduction.

The Town funds for Phase 1 parking expansion were questioned and it was reiterated that the Town funds are station generated revenue and are available to fund Phase 1 construction. The State funds for Phase 2 parking expansion were questioned and it was reiterated that the State funds are in place to fund Phase 2 construction.

A comment was provided on the price per parking space going down based on the three surface parking lot projects producing 481 spaces compared to the 417 spaces that the parking garage project would have produced.

The status of the platform extension was questioned. The Department noted that the Town has the funding to design the platform extension along with the Phase 1 project, but the funding for the construction of the platform extension is not available at this time.

One audience member provided the following comments:

- A railroad force account for construction might be required.
- Phase 2 parking expansion should consider the following: access for emergency vehicles, pick-up/drop-off area, consideration for commercial vehicles for deliveries and trash removal, ADA concerns of sidewalk and the grade of the existing pavement.
- Consider multi-modal transportation methods and look into providing bus shelters.
- Think about sight lines.
- Provide context sensitive design that lend to aesthetics including landscaping, screening dumpsters and cut-off lighting.
- Consider security cameras at the station that feed to dispatch.
- Intelligent transportation and the installation of fiber optics should be considered.
- Access to the proposed parking through Bally's should help ease traffic on Main Street.

The Department thanked the audience members for their comments and acknowledged that some of these are already addressed and the concerns that have not been addressed will be investigated.

A comment was provided on the amount of space in the area of the Bally's property and the potential of this area for a future parking garage. It was suggested that a parking garage would be great for commercial development and if located in this area it would help relieve Main Street traffic.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.