

**Department of Transportation**  
**State Project No. 133-95**  
**Federal Aid Project Number (PE)**  
**Safety and Sidewalk Improvements on Route 97**  
**Town of Sprague**  
**Public Informational Meeting Held at Sprague Town Hall**  
**1 Main Street, Baltic CT**  
**Wednesday, September 26, 2012**

**Minutes**

**Presentation:**

- ⇒ There were 7 attendees, including First Selectman Cathy Osten, and two residents.
- ⇒ A color site plan of the proposed improvements, a typical pavement cross section and planting plan were displayed. The Department representatives presented the Preliminary Design proposal to the attendees.
- ⇒ The project begins near the intersection of Route 97 with West Main Street (Route 207) and ends at its intersection with Wall Street, for a total length of approximately 1100 feet. The purpose of the project is to improve pedestrian and driver safety by installing a sidewalk along the southbound side of Route 97 and making improvements to the guiderail and the bridge parapets. Other proposed project features include:
  - Granite curbing along the proposed sidewalk.
  - Crosswalk markings across Route 97 at the intersections with Route 207 and Route 138.
  - Five foot southbound roadway shoulder to accommodate bicycles.
  - Improvements to the Sprague River Park driveways.
  - Concrete stairway and handicapped access ramp to the park.
  - Three (3) existing light standards on Bridge No. 1292 will be replaced with decorative standards.
- ⇒ It is anticipated that two utility poles will need to be relocated or reset to accommodate the installation of the sidewalk and the proposed handicapped access ramp.
- ⇒ A Floodplain Management Certification is required for this project.
- ⇒ Estimated Cost of the project is approximately \$900,000 funded by 80% Federal and 20% State funds. The federal portion of the funding will be facilitated by the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments.
- ⇒ Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2013 based on the availability of federal/state funding.

### **Public Comments and Questions:**

- ⇒ A member of the public questioned if only three (3) light standards would be installed on Route 97, or if more would be installed along the proposed sidewalk. Representatives from the Department explained that the light standards were being installed based on a request from the Town to replace the three (3) existing light standards on Bridge No. 1292 with decorative light standards that match the existing ones adjacent to the project. The First Selectman added that the Town may eventually add additional street lights in the future.
  
- ⇒ It was questioned why the Department was proposing to install a staircase from Route 97 to the park. The Department representatives explained that currently people are jumping over the guiderail and walking down the slope to access the park. This, in addition to being undesirable, is causing erosion of the slope. The installation of a staircase will provide proper and convenient access to the park while eliminating the associated erosion issues. The ramp is required for ADA access to the park.

**Adjournment:** Those present concurred with the design of the project as presented. The formal portion of the meeting was completed by 7:30 p.m.