

State Project No. 36-184 Reconstruction of Route 34 (Main Street) Derby

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG), the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and the City of Derby are working on designing improvements to Route 34 (Main Street) in the city of Derby from the vicinity of Ausonio Drive to Bridge Street, a distance of about 3,300 feet. The NVCOG is administering the design of the project and has contracted with DeCarlo & Doll, Inc. to prepare the design plans and project specifications.

Preliminary Design (PD) plans have been prepared and a Public Hearing was held on these plans in August, 2011 and a Public Information meeting was held on December 4, 2014. The Preliminary Design plans have been reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Connecticut Department of Transportation and authorization to proceed to Final Design (FD) has been issued.

2014 SEMI-FINAL DESIGN PLANS

Semi-Final design plans show Route 34 will be reconstructed and widened from two travel lanes to a typical cross section consisting of four lanes. Exclusive left turn lanes will be installed at Minerva Street and Ausonio Drive in the eastbound direction and at Factory Street in the westbound direction. A raised, landscaped median will be installed over the entire length of the project with variable width of eight to 18 feet. The narrower sections will accommodate the left turn lanes and wider sections define the left turn bays. On-street parking spaces will be designated along the north side between Elizabeth Street and Water Street. On-street parking has been eliminated between Bridge Street and Elizabeth Street on both sides and along the entire south side of Main Street. To provide parking for the loss of on-street parking, a parking lot will be constructed at the corner of Bridge Street. It will serve patrons of the businesses and uses located in the area, as well as, for users of the Derby Greenway. Various pedestrian enhancements will be made, including new pedestrian actuated signals, marked crosswalks with textured pavement, and curb extensions at each intersection to narrow the walk distance across the road. The sidewalk on the north side of the street will be rehabilitated, while a new, 10-foot wide sidewalk will be installed along the south side. In addition to the new sidewalk, a 10-foot, bi-direction cycle-track is planned for the south side to make a direct connection from Bridge Street to the Derby-Shelton rail station. As part of the plan, Minerva Street and Elizabeth Street will be rehabilitated and converted to one-way traffic operations, with Minerva Street operating as an inbound to downtown and Elizabeth Street in an outbound direction. On street parking will also be defined on both streets, with angled parking installed on Minerva Street.

REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS

The City, in 2016, completed a comprehensive planning process focused the revitalization and redevelopment of the area south of Main Street, known as the *Business Revitalization District (BRD)*. The planning process, known as *Downtown Now!*, consisted of a robust public engagement effort to build consensus on the preferred redevelopment approach and vision for the area. Stakeholders expressed the desire to create a “true” Main Street and a pedestrian-friendly, economically vibrant and cohesive downtown. Because Route 34 bisects Derby’s downtown, special attention was dedicated on the planned reconstruction of Main Street, and the City has requested revisiting the semi-final design plans that better align with the City’s newly defined goals.

The requested modifications to the semi-final design plans are:

1. Inclusion of on-street parking on both sides of Main Street (included in the 2011 PD Plan) with a surface treatment or texture to contrast with the travel lanes;
2. 11' lanes with 2' shoulders, preferably with a surface treatment or texture to contrast the travel lanes with the shoulders to create a narrowing effect (The 2011 PD Plan has 11' lanes with 4' shoulders);
3. Elimination of the dedicated left turn lane from Main Street EB onto Minerva Street. The City accepts that left turns onto Main Street will be prohibited at unsignalized intersections and the median will be continuous at the Minerva Street intersection;
4. Reduction in the median to a consistent 8' from Elizabeth Street to Caroline Street, subsequent to the removal of the aforementioned left turn lane;
5. Reduction in the length of the left turn lane from Main Street EB onto Water Street;
6. The cycle-track between Bridge Street and Factory Street will be eliminated from the project and relocated in the redevelopment site. The construction of the bicycle facility would no longer be eligible under the Route 34 project;
7. Removal of the parking lot at Bridge Street. The gateway park at the Bridge Street corner shall remain in the plan;
8. Drop Elizabeth, Minerva, and Caroline streets from the project as the City does not desire a change in circulation and prefers these roads to remain two-way;
9. Convert Third Street to one-way as was being proposed for the semi-final design submission.

The public information meeting will be held on Monday, May 22nd at 6:00 pm in the Aldermanic Chambers of the Derby City Hall located at 1 Elizabeth Street in Derby. Staff will be available at 5:00 pm to informally discuss the project. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the public information meeting and offer their opinions, insights and suggestions regarding the reconstruction of Route 34. Oral statements may be made at the public information meeting. Written statements in place of or in addition to oral statements may be submitted either at the meeting or may be mailed to the attention of Mr. Mark Nielsen, Director of Planning, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, 49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702 on or before 4:00 pm on June 21, 2017. Such written statements or exhibits must be reproducible in black and white and on paper not to exceed 8 1/2" X 11" in size. These written statements or exhibits will be made a part of the public information meeting and will be considered in the same way as oral statements.

The meeting facility is ADA accessible. Deaf and hearing impaired persons wishing to attend this public information meeting and requiring an interpreter must make arrangements by contacting the Department of Transportation's Office of Communications (Voice only) at (860) 594-3062 at least five working days prior to the public information meeting. Persons with limited English proficiency who need an interpreter should contact the NVCOG at (203) 757-0535 at least five business days prior to the meeting.