



# The Republican.

## Springfield seeks bids for road work

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SPRINGFIELD - The city is seeking bids for a major road renovation project on Main Street in the South End, a key component of a long-range \$12 million neighborhood revitalization effort.

The Main Street project has an estimated price tag of \$4 million and includes new paving, traffic signal improvements, new street lights, sidewalks and curbing, new crosswalks, landscape improvements, and drainage work.

Bids are due by July 23, at 2 p.m., at the Purchasing Department at City Hall.

The city-funded road project is hoped to begin this summer and is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2010.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno said the city is looking to duplicate improvements that have occurred on Main Street in the downtown, and an ongoing \$17 million State Street corridor improvement project, financed by a mix of federal, state and city funds.

"For too long, for the last 20 to 25 years, it really has been a Band-Aid approach to the South End," Sarno said.

The planned improvements are "for the overall good of the South End area," he said.

In October 2008, the former Finance Control Board authorized \$6.2 million in capital bonding for long-range urban renewal efforts in the South End, including the Main Street corridor. The city has also received state and federal funding for neighborhood improvements.

Stephen P. Lisauskas, the city's acting chief financial and administrative officer, said the investment is an important piece of revitalization efforts in the South End and citywide.

The city hired Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. last year for \$313,000 for advance design and field work related to the Main Street project.

City officials have worked with the South End Revitalization Coalition, chaired by Joan B. Kagan, on the long-range urban renewal effort, that also includes open space improvements and new lighting, Sarno said. Key areas targeted include the Hollywood section of the South End, and the Marble Street area.

The Urban Land Institute of Washington, D.C., had evaluated economic development and neighborhood needs in Springfield and listed the South End as one of the top priorities in its 2007 report.

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