

City of Springfield
South End Revitalization Project
Frequently Asked Questions
10/23/08

Q. When would we see the first changes in the neighborhood?

A. The City anticipates starting the first phase of construction next year.

Q. How is this project going to benefit me as a homeowner or renter in the South End?

A. Homeowners will be able to enjoy the improvements of the streets, sidewalks, lighting and major upgrades to Emerson Wight Park. New street connections will improve access for public safety vehicles. The plan also calls for improvements and enhanced management for the historic buildings along Oswego, Dwight Street Extension, Bayonne and Niagara and the SHA Marble Street property. Together with the infrastructure improvements, these changes will improve the quality of life in South End and potentially increase the property value of existing homes.

Q. How is this project going to benefit me as a Landlord?

A. As a landlord, the proposed improvements will upgrade the area around your property, potentially allowing higher rents for your apartments and encouraging improvements to existing property.

Q. What are the future plans for the Gemini site?

A. In early 2008, a retail and housing market analysis was done for the South End and it indicates there is potential for a commercial/residential mixed-use development on the site, however, we will request proposals and pursue development opportunities after the bulk of public infrastructure improvements have been completed.

Q. How will this project affect the park?

A. As currently proposed, the project will make major upgrades to Emerson Wight Park and greenspace, as well as adding new play structures and lighting.

Q. What happens if my house is affected by this project?

A. Assuming the planning and permitting process continues as planned, whether you own or rent your home, a relocation professional will contact you at the appropriate time and will work with you and your family to figure out what process works best for a smooth transition. There will be several options available for relocation of families and homes. He/she will assist you in determining which option works best for you and your family.

Q. Where is the City getting the money from to fund this project?

A. The City is planning to use funding from a series of City and State sources. The primary source is approximately \$6.2M approved by the Springfield Finance Control Board, which in this case will come from new general obligation bond issuances. The City will also use about \$1M in funding from its

annual US HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Funding is also planned to come from the State through three programs: the Community Development Action Grant (CDAG), Public Works and Economic Development (PWED) grant, the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) grant, and a Priority Development Fund grant each of which are awarded to cities through a competitive process.

Q. How can I stay involved in the process?

A. Since the beginning of 2008, a group of local South End stakeholders has been convening regularly review market information and listen to early recommendations from the City and its consultants regarding the South End Public Realm Plan. This group, the “South End Revitalization Coalition”, will continue to be the City’s partner as more detailed plans for the infrastructure are developed. If you are interested in participating in this group of South End stakeholders, please contact Samalid Hogan, Project Manager at the City of Springfield Office Planning and Economic Development at 413-787-6020 or email her at shogan@springfieldcityhall.com.

Q. How long will this project take to be completed?

A. The City anticipates the first phase of construction to commence in 2009 and end in 2011. Subsequent phases of the plan may overlap with phase one but the City anticipates the entire public realm improvements to be completed by 2013.

Q. Who should I call if I have more questions about this project?

A. Please call Samalid Hogan, Project Manager at the City of Office Springfield Planning and Economic Development. She can be reached at 413-787-6020 or by email at shogan@springfieldcityhall.com. You can also find more information about this project on the South End Revitalization Coalition website – www.Springfield-MA.gov/SouthEndProject.