



**Town of Bristol, Rhode Island**  
*Department of Community Development*

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September 29, 2010

**TO:** Honorable Town Council  
Kenneth A. Marshall, Chairman

**FROM:** Diane M. Williamson, Director of Community Development  
Edward M. Tanner, Principal Planner

**RE:** ***HOPE STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT***

As requested at your September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, we are providing the following summary of construction activities that are planned by RIDOT as part of the Hope Street Reconstruction Project in downtown Bristol. The limits of the project will run from the intersection of Hope Street and Thames Street at the northern end to the intersection of Hope Street and Constitution Street at the southern end. This project will consist of a nearly complete rebuild of the roadway and sidewalk areas as summarized below:

**ROADWAY:**

The Hope Street roadway surface will be milled down and overlaid with a new layer of asphalt pavement. Drainage and utility structures will be replaced where needed and reset to the elevation of the new pavement.

**CURBING:**

Existing granite curbing will be removed and reset in place, and existing concrete curbing will be removed and replaced with new granite.

**CROSSWALKS:**

All existing crosswalks have been studied and evaluated by RIDOT and several that do not meet State Traffic Commission standards will be eliminated. Crosswalks will be properly painted and signed at all major intersections and will be handicap accessible.

**SIDEWALKS:**

All sidewalks (and driveway entrances) will be removed and replaced with new concrete.

**STAIRS:**

The many stairs located along the construction route between the sidewalk and the roadway have been evaluated by RIDOT and will be repaired as needed. Several of the stairs will need to be completely removed and will be replaced in kind. Existing stair railings will remain in place.

**RETAINING WALL:**

The existing stone masonry retaining wall located on the easterly side of the roadway between State Street and Court Street will be repaired with a new concrete cap, and the stones will be reset and re-pointed as needed.

**LIGHTING:**

New “historic” lighting fixtures will be installed along the entire route adjacent to the sidewalk. These lights will be nearly identical in design to the ones that the Town installed on Thames Street. In addition to the new period lighting, RIDOT will coordinate with National Grid to replace the existing “cobra head” street lights that extend over the roadway with new energy efficient lighting with cut-off fixtures that provides better coverage of the roadway corridor.

**TREES:**

RIDOT has studied each tree within the project area and will preserve as many trees as possible. They plan to remove only those trees that are a safety hazard or that are in very poor condition, and they will attempt to improve the health of those that will remain. RIDOT has sent professional arborists to inventory and evaluate each and every tree on the route and in several instances they actually sent crews climbing into the larger trees to assess their health. The arborists have recommended that several trees be removed. The trees that will remain will be pruned, fertilized, and if needed receive fungicide applications (as many are reportedly infected) to help them stay healthy. New trees will be planted to replace those that are removed. New trees will also be planted in many locations where there is not currently a tree but there is room for one. RIDOT plans indicate that a total of 21 trees would be removed and that 35 trees would be planted. However, this number will likely change by a few as there are several (8) questionable trees that the Conservation Commission, Tree Warden, and RIDOT’s arborists are still discussing.

**PARKING:**

By eliminating on-street parking on the easterly side of the roadway between Church Street and Constitution Street, the Hope Street travel lanes in this area will be widened to improve safety and comply with federal roadway standards. A total of 13 on-street parking spaces will be eliminated on the eastern side of Hope Street in this area. RIDOT feels that this very narrow section of roadway presents safety hazards, and that the elimination of on-street parking spaces is the best alternative for correcting this condition. RIDOT has studied alternative designs to physically widen the roadway in this area, but this would cause significant disturbances to the neighborhood as it would require moving back curbing, relocating drainage structures, cutting into and eliminating portions of the grass tree lawn, and likely result in the removal of many trees. The alternative would also require additional permitting and thus result in delays in getting the project started.

**DRAINAGE / UTILITIES:**

RIDOT has inspected and cleaned all drainage lines and structures located within the project area. In addition they have inspected several interconnected drain lines on Town streets. As a result of these inspections, several sections of drain line will be repaired as part of this project. RIDOT has contacted other entities that maintain buried utilities in the project area (National Grid, BCWA, Wastewater Department) to make them aware of this project and request that they conduct any needed repairs prior to the start of construction.

Should you have any questions pertaining to this information, please contact us.