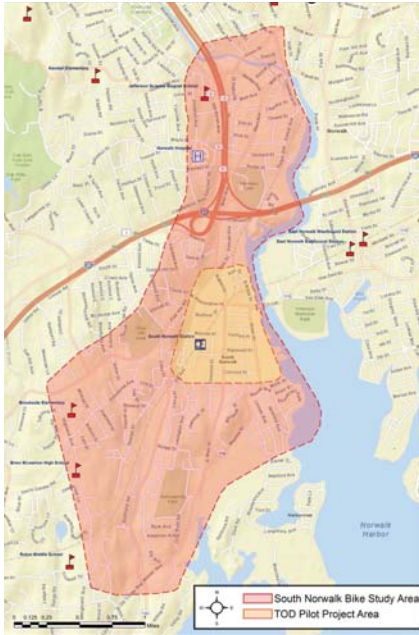


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Norwalk TOD Pilot Program – Linking SoNo Station to Norwalk’s Neighborhoods with Transit Oriented Development and Complete Streets



Norwalk, Connecticut – July 1st, 2013 – The City of Norwalk has been awarded a grant from the State of Connecticut to design and construct ‘Complete Streets’ into recently developed plans for Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Complete Streets is a set of principles where streets are designed to enable safe and convenient access and travel for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists. TOD is an approach to urban design that focuses on compact development with a mix of residential and commercial land uses around public transit stations. TOD allows residents to live and work in a walkable environment that reduces dependence on an automobile. Studies show that people are far more likely to commute and run errands by transit, walking or bicycling if amenities that support these options are located close to their homes and around transit stations.

The City and the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency have hired a transportation consulting firm, CDM Smith, to carry forward the findings of the recently completed TOD Master Plan, the Norwalk Connectivity Master Plan and the Norwalk Pedestrian and Bikeway Transportation Plan. CDM Smith has been charged with identifying those street improvements of highest priority to the community and developing a set of preliminary construction documents to implement them. Preparation of design plans is the first step toward getting the desired projects built. The scope of the project focuses on street improvements in the vicinity of the South Norwalk Train Station and the development of a bicycle network that connects South Norwalk to Downtown. Improvements will also include rebuilding two staircases on the west side of Dr. Martin Luther King Drive that lead to the Golden Hill Neighborhood. These improvements will be funded by a Sustainable Communities grant from the Regional Plan Association.

The City is holding a public outreach workshop to discuss the team’s initial impressions of the SoNo street network and its ability to better accommodate pedestrians, cyclists and transit-riders. The specific intent of the workshop is to understand community preferences and priorities regarding how and where the roadways in the study area could or should be improved. The City will also provide conceptual plans of the Golden Hill staircases for public review and comment. Maps and tools will be available to facilitate discussion and to spark ideas. All residents and business stakeholders are encouraged to attend and help the City develop a series of practical solutions to improve South Norwalk’s streets.

Attached is a map depicting the boundaries of the study area for the project.

The public workshop will be held on Tuesday, July 16th at 7:00 PM at the Norwalk Police Station (One Monroe Street). Information regarding the project can be found by contacting the Senior Engineer in the Department of Public Works, Mr. Michael Yeosock at myeosock@norwalkct.org or 203-854-7844.

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