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PROCEEDING HELD AT 115 SOUTH AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NEW  
YORK ON FEBRUARY 4, 2014 COMMENCING AT APPROXIMATELY  
7:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 4, 2014

KATE GLEASON AUDITORIUM  
BAUSCH & LOMB PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING  
115 SOUTH AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Reported by:  
COMPUTER REPORTING SERVICE  
Colleen Lounsbury  
16 East Main Street, Suite 7  
Rochester, New York 14614 (585) 325-3170

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 2

2 MR. WAY: I would like to call this public  
3 hearing to order. It's now 7:30.

4 I'm Paul Way. I'm the project manager from  
5 the City of Rochester and I shall preside at this  
6 design public hearing for the Inner Loop East  
7 transformation project.

8 Just by way of housekeeping, we do have a  
9 stenographer here who will be recording the event.

10 The legal notice advertising this public  
11 hearing was published on January 16th, 2014 in the  
12 Rochester Democrat & Chronicle.

13 I will now enter the complete notice of the  
14 public information meeting, public hearing and  
15 notice of availability of the design approval  
16 document as published into the record of this  
17 hearing.

18 Unless I hear an objection from the floor I  
19 will dispense with the reading of this notice.

20 I request that this transcript be copied  
21 into the record. Copies of the notice are available  
22 upon request.

23 This hearing is being conducted in  
24 accordance with Title 23 US Code Section 128, Title  
25 40 Code of the Federal Regulations Part 1500 to 1508

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 3  
2 and the US Federal Highway Administration Federal  
3 Aid Policy Guide 23 CFR 771.

4 The intent of this public hearing is to  
5 afford the opportunity for public participation in  
6 the consideration of highway proposals being given  
7 to all interested persons an opportunity to become  
8 fully acquainted with the highway proposals and to  
9 express their views.

10 When you entered the hearing room you were  
11 given the opportunity to register. This will allow  
12 us to keep a record of those who have attended  
13 today's hearing. If you haven't signed the register  
14 please do so as you leave.

15 This evening individuals who wish to speak  
16 at the formal hearing were given a numbered  
17 registration card.

18 The purpose of these cards is to allot  
19 sufficient time for each person to make a statement  
20 if so desired.

21 If you did not receive a card and wish to  
22 speak or if your card has not been collected please  
23 raise your hand.

24 Also, upon entering the hearing you should  
25 have received a printed brochure which briefly

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 4  
2 describes the general features of the project which  
3 are open for discussions at this hearing.

4 This brochure includes the project location  
5 map and a brief description of the proposed  
6 alternative under consideration for the project.

7 Also, you should have received a comment  
8 sheet that can be sent back to us with your  
9 comments. Please remember to include an envelope  
10 and attach a stamp.

11 The brochure also provides my e-mail  
12 address right at the bottom here for your comments.  
13 If you did not receive a copy of the brochure or  
14 comment sheet would you please raise your hand?

15 The details of the design study for this  
16 project are documented in the design report dated  
17 January 2014 which has been available for your  
18 review or copying at the Rochester City Clerk's  
19 Office and here in the public library.

20 The Rochester City Clerk's Office is in  
21 City Hall, Room 300-A, 30 Church Street, Rochester,  
22 New York and the Bausch & Lomb Public Library here  
23 at 110 South Avenue, Rochester, New York 14614.

24 A complete copy of this report is on  
25 display here tonight on the table over there. A

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 5  
2 city representative has been available at that  
3 display to answer your questions.

4 The complete report is also available on  
5 the city's website page at the following address:  
6 [www.cityofrochester.gov/innerloopeast](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/innerloopeast).

7 At this time I would like to note that a  
8 project overview was presented tonight from 6:30 to  
9 7:00 and I will now enter the complete presentation  
10 into the record.

11 The proceedings for this hearing are being  
12 recorded. When completed the transcript will be  
13 available for public inspection at the City of  
14 Rochester, 30 Church Street, Rochester, New York.

15 Statements may be presented at this hearing  
16 either orally or in writing and written statements  
17 may also be submitted for the record at the address  
18 shown on the comment sheet until February 14th,  
19 2014. That is a week from this Friday.

20 After fully evaluating all of the oral and  
21 written comments that we receive as well as views of  
22 the agencies who have been contacted in this process  
23 the City of Rochester will recommend a design and  
24 request an approval from the New York State  
25 Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 6  
2 Administration.

3 Following this approval - which we  
4 anticipate receiving some time in early March 2014 -  
5 we'll begin the preparation of the detailed plans  
6 and the acquisition of the necessary right of way  
7 for the project.

8 It is anticipated that construction will  
9 begin in October of 2014 and conclude by the fall of  
10 2017.

11 I would like to emphasize that the format  
12 of this hearing does not lend itself to responding  
13 to your statements and questions from the podium.

14 I recommend therefore that you avail  
15 yourself of the opportunity to ask questions after  
16 this hearing.

17 All statements received as part of this  
18 record of this hearing either tonight or within ten  
19 days will be considered in preparation of the design  
20 recommendation.

21 Several persons have indicated a desire to  
22 express their views. If there is anyone in the  
23 audience who wishes to make a statement that has not  
24 yet filled out a registration card please do so now.

25 Statements will be received in the order

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 7  
2 represented by the number on the registration card.  
3 As your name is called you may come to the speaker  
4 area before beginning your statement.

5 I will also announce the next speaker so  
6 you may come to the front of the room in  
7 anticipation of your turn to speak.

8 Kindly state your name and address and your  
9 position within any organization you may be  
10 representing.

11 Please speak clearly so that the  
12 stenographer may make an accurate record of your  
13 statement.

14 I would like to reemphasize that the format  
15 of this hearing does not lend itself to responding  
16 to your statements and questions from the podium.

17 However, all statements received as part of  
18 the record of this hearing will be given  
19 consideration in preparation of the designed  
20 recommendation.

21 I now call for statements from the floor on  
22 this project. The first speaker is Michael Knight  
23 and he will be followed by Stephen Venturino.

24 MR. KNIGHT: My name is Mike Knight and I  
25 live on Buena Place -- on 30 Buena Place for the

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 8  
2 last forty years. Right. You still can't hear me?

3 My name is Mike Knight. I live on Buena  
4 Place. I've been a resident there for the last  
5 forty years.

6 This problem with parking should have been  
7 taken care of years and years and years ago. There  
8 is some people here that -- I don't think they quite  
9 understand the nature of the problem.

10 It creates a lot of animosity. It creates  
11 a lot of inconvenience. It creates family and  
12 friends coming over to visit people who live in the  
13 area.

14 They don't even like going down there  
15 because of the fact. "Where am I going to park,  
16 Dad?" What do I say to them?

17 I saw a lot of people shaking their heads -  
18 that young lady over there that brought up the  
19 subject of parking.

20 This lady here was going "Yup." That guy  
21 over there was going "Yup."

22 Well, we've been doing it for a long time  
23 and I think that there should be some sort of  
24 special committee set up to where the city can start  
25 taking this problem a little bit more seriously for



1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 9  
2 the benefit of the people who pay taxes in that  
3 neighborhood.

4 I thank you for your time and basically  
5 that's all I have to say.

6 MR. WAY: Thank you, sir. I now call  
7 Stephen Venturino and he will be followed by the  
8 representative from the Ambassadors Union Street,  
9 LLC.

10 MR. VENTURINO: My name is Stephen  
11 Venturino. I live at 96 South Union and 3 and 5  
12 Lafayette Place. I represent those properties.

13 For the record I'd like -- there is two  
14 problems that were new to the neighborhood - street  
15 cleaning and snow removal.

16 Snow removal impacts the parking. I think  
17 in the final design we need to consider something  
18 similar to what we see on Park Avenue which is a one  
19 hour period in which cars are forbidden to park.

20 There is street cleaning and I would expect  
21 snow removal as well, an opportunity for that.

22 I've seen them jut out into the street.  
23 Right now we have a very wide street, two lanes.  
24 There is plenty of room to get around those cars  
25 that are cocked out from parking oddly because of

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 10  
2 the snow that has not been removed by the plow. So  
3 those are two things.

4 Also, handicapped parking. I think there  
5 has been some meetings, but it would be nice to know  
6 if there is going to be improvements in the  
7 handicapped parking in those areas.

8 Also, on a lighter note I think the city  
9 has done a great job at branding different areas,  
10 college town, neighborhood of the arts.

11 I'm wondering if there is going to be any  
12 thought -- I know you guys are rushing to get the  
13 final plans in and not lose the money, but was any  
14 thought in the final design given to branding that  
15 area to make it unique?

16 I think it's the first time in a long time  
17 the city had a blank slate, a blank piece of paper.

18 It would be nice to see some kind of  
19 branding or lighting of the trees or something  
20 that's different about the area that makes it  
21 unique.

22 Then the other thing is - I'm sure it's  
23 been thought about - the signage. Disposing of the  
24 Inner Loop -- there is a lot of signage.

25 For example, to get onto Broadway off of

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 11  
2 Goodman -- I think that is the backed up Inner Loop  
3 so I expect that's going to be thought about.

4 Then the only other thing I'm sure --  
5 again, I think the engineers did a great job. I  
6 think we are on the emergency snow route.

7 I don't know what that means, the  
8 parking -- or during a snow emergency is Union still  
9 going to be an emergency snow route? That's all I  
10 have.

11 MR. WAY: Thank you, Steve.

12 I now call to the podium the representative  
13 from Ambassador Union Street and Joey Lanzone will  
14 be next.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Dawn Williams for Ambassador  
16 Union Street, LLC. I'm one of the directors and I  
17 would like to reiterate the need for residential  
18 parking.

19 So parking that is not metered -- we  
20 understand it's being regulated like in any other  
21 area in Park Avenue, but not metered especially  
22 south of Broad Street. It's heavily residential.

23 We do not want meters in there for our  
24 residents or people who live in the neighborhood.  
25 It's really not friendly. It doesn't make for a

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 12  
2 livable -- in the upper area where it's commercial  
3 we absolutely understand metering gets some money,  
4 but where people live, I don't think it's fair to  
5 put in meters. Okay?

6 The gentleman before me mentioned about the  
7 cleaning of the streets and the cleaning away of the  
8 snow.

9 That absolutely is an issue. The cars are  
10 literally out there because there is nowhere else.  
11 The cars can't switch over to the other side of the  
12 street, so we are hoping with a two sided street  
13 that will be taken care of.

14 Branding is a great idea too, something  
15 like Union Place would be very nice to make it into  
16 a neighborhood. Thank you.

17 MR. WAY: Joey Lanzone followed by Jack  
18 Darcy.

19 MR. LANZONE: Hello. My name is Joey  
20 Lanzone. I'm a staff writer for the Rochester  
21 Insomniac which is a local magazine blog and pod  
22 cast.

23 Personally, I believe that we should fix  
24 what we have before you move on to other things such  
25 as the offices.

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 13  
2 The magazine is right behind the Hotel  
3 Cadillac on Atlas Street. That's how far of an  
4 area -- it's not a very -- clean up areas like that  
5 and then moving on to stuff like that.

6 With businesses moving to this area, of  
7 course, other people will move in and it will be a  
8 continued problem of what happens.

9 MR. WAY: Thank you, sir. Jack Darcy  
10 followed by Chris McCamic.

11 MR. DARCY: My name is Jack Darcy and I own  
12 six properties in the immediate area of this  
13 project, one on Monroe Avenue and one on Marshall  
14 Street.

15 I believe that this marks a momentous time  
16 in Rochester's history in that we have an  
17 opportunity to set the tone for the whole east side  
18 for years to come.

19 Although traffic and traffic flow are  
20 important the following are of critical importance  
21 also:

22 One is beautification. I think this could  
23 be done through superior landscaping and artistic  
24 features which could be benches, sculptures,  
25 whatever else.

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 14

2 This project will have a significant impact  
3 not only on the east side, but for the image of the  
4 entire city.

5 For example, shrubbery, trees, floral  
6 settings help make Niagara on the Lake a go to  
7 destination as well as generate inflow of business  
8 and tax dollars.

9 A cooperative effort between the city and  
10 property owners like myself can make this vision a  
11 reality.

12 These types of improvements are wise  
13 investments and draw both local people downtown and  
14 tourists to the downtown area increasing residential  
15 and commercial property values.

16 By creating - this could be a logo - a  
17 Gardenscape along the new boulevard -- we have Art  
18 Walk, et cetera and we have Gardenscape.

19 Since we are doing a lot of trees and  
20 hopefully a lot of quality landscaping we can  
21 transform a struggling area into a vibrant area to  
22 live in and shop in and thus an area of increasing  
23 property values and an increasing tax base. Every  
24 dollar spent on beautification is an investment in  
25 Rochester's future.

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 15

2 Another point I'd like to make is - as  
3 other people have mentioned - parking for both  
4 businesses and residents.

5 Creation of parking places in the final  
6 plan is very important. Existing businesses are  
7 struggling for parking and need relief.

8 As new parcels are created for the project  
9 they too will have parking needs.

10 I would also like to address staging of  
11 this project. When the project area is torn up it  
12 will have a very negative impact on the traffic  
13 flow, parking and a public perception that this is  
14 an area to avoid.

15 That is going to hurt business and it's  
16 going to hurt people who live in the area.

17 I would suggest staging construction by  
18 creating sections that you start and complete before  
19 you move on to another section so the whole area  
20 isn't ripped up and unfinished for an extended  
21 period of time.

22 Lastly, I want to address the new buildable  
23 parcels that are being created by this project. I  
24 believe there should be an application process so  
25 it's not first come first serve or he who is willing

1       In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 16  
2       to pay the most money.

3               The application process should require an  
4       applicant show, A, how the project he is going to do  
5       will benefit the area, B, that the architecture and  
6       landscaping will enhance the area and C, that the  
7       proposed use is needed and it's not just a  
8       redundancy so we get more vacant space and  
9       compatible with residential and commercial vision  
10      that the city has for this area.

11              These properties should not be just sold to  
12      the highest bidder. The right development and its  
13      impact could dwarf any price game by a less  
14      desirable project.

15              As I said, I'm a major stakeholder in the  
16      Inner Loop project area and I'm willing to be  
17      involved financially if necessary.

18              Now, this could involve -- and I know this  
19      could be a hot potato. This could involve an  
20      assessment district like they've done by the Mount  
21      Hope area to help fund and maintain landscaping and  
22      so forth.

23              My understanding is that the money that is  
24      coming from the federal grant may provide some money  
25      for landscaping, but once the stuff is put in they



1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 17  
2 are done and that sits there.

3 Unless there is some kind of way to  
4 perpetually maintain this we could end up with a  
5 field of weeds and we could end up with some very  
6 undesirable parcels.

7 By the same token these developable  
8 parcels -- I think something should be in place so  
9 that these are maintained until they are sold and  
10 whoever takes them takes the responsibility for them  
11 because this could all be redeveloped.

12 These parcels could sit there empty growing  
13 up the weeds while everybody waits for years ahead  
14 when someone is actually going to buy them and do  
15 something.

16 I'm willing to serve on a planning and  
17 implementation committee to help guide and bring  
18 about this reality.

19 This Gardenscape idea can help make this  
20 area a vibrant contribution to the future of  
21 downtown and, in fact, the whole city.

22 MR. WAY: Thank you, Mr. Darcy. I'll now  
23 call Chris McCamic and on deck will be Ed Steinberg.

24 MR. McCAMIC: Thank you, Mr. Darcy. You  
25 just stole a lot of my points actually so let me

1       In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 18  
2       just try to restate most of that in the way that I  
3       was mentally planning on restating it -- which is I  
4       think this has a lot of potential, but there's  
5       something a little dishonest about looking at the  
6       schematics because they've got lots of nice little  
7       green circles which we know are trees and we love  
8       trees.

9               They've got lots of big green spaces that  
10       say "future development area." Big green spaces  
11       look nice, but what I understand from talking to  
12       staff and what I'm hearing about this is that those  
13       aren't planned to be green spaces.

14               Those are planned to be mixed commercial  
15       and residential use -- developable parcels is the  
16       term.

17               I understand you have an economic study  
18       which I think my expectation is that -- to think  
19       it's a creative writing project is about the  
20       gentlest way I could put it.

21               It's really hard for me to imagine - given  
22       the level of commercial and residential vacancies  
23       that we have in Rochester - that it makes any kind  
24       of sense to turn this into more boxes.

25               The economic development benefits that --

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 19  
2 the ecological benefits and the community  
3 development benefits of treating a lot of this as  
4 public space -- I can't see how that doesn't vastly  
5 outweigh that.

6 We've also heard a lot of concerns about  
7 parking. I live on 27 Buena Place so I know that.  
8 I live it.

9 If these are developed parcels the  
10 additional parking that you very kindly pointed out  
11 that will be there is going to get outstripped by  
12 the additional demand really quickly.

13 So I would urge -- and I'm willing to be on  
14 a committee too. I'd love to be on a committee. I  
15 would urge that we really look at what it would mean  
16 to carve out a richer public sphere here with  
17 something like a permaculture food forest such as  
18 they are experimenting with in Seattle, urban  
19 gardening and public mixed use spaces. Thank you.

20 MR. WAY: Ed Steinberg.

21 MR. STEINBERG: Edward Steinberg, 14  
22 Lafayette Park. I've been a long time resident with  
23 my wife and raised my kids on Lafayette Park.

24 My comments will be brief, mainly about two  
25 separate subjects. One is the South Union

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 20  
2 development parcels which I understand are going to  
3 be zoned center city district which implies that  
4 they will have to meet certain specific design  
5 standards.

6 I think design standards are something -  
7 and it sort of goes with the last two or three  
8 speakers - that should be highly prioritized because  
9 the area is opposite to residential homes.

10 We would like to see something very  
11 attractive being developed if it is going to be  
12 developed there.

13 That's all determined by the zoning  
14 district as a nation I would add. The area itself  
15 is somewhat historic in period.

16 The landmark society did an area survey  
17 back in the '80s I believe it was and they gave  
18 historic designations and ratings to the homes on  
19 Lafayette, Canfield, Buena -- I'm not sure about  
20 South Union. Some of them were rated of the highest  
21 caliber, preserved and protected.

22 As some also know there were some Georgian  
23 townhouses recently built on the corner of Lafayette  
24 and South Union which were marketed on the premises  
25 that there was a wonderful view of downtown. That

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 21  
2 will be affected by the project understandably.

3 My second point is that the Howell Street  
4 thoroughfare has been planned to be aligned with  
5 Lafayette Park where the traffic is there.

6 I believe that several of the property  
7 owners on Lafayette would disagree with that, my  
8 wife and I for one.

9 What that will do is bring traffic to our  
10 little dead end street which is already sometimes  
11 there without a purpose because they think it's a  
12 through street and it's not a through street.

13 Often times bar patrons at night are  
14 sometimes driving not with the best of skill and are  
15 coming quickly down the street and realize, "We have  
16 to stop after the fifth house" I should say.

17 So traffic flows sometimes undesirably on  
18 to Lafayette and this will increase that probability  
19 I think and will also require a traffic signal  
20 apparently.

21 I know that there are intentions of  
22 discouraging people from coming off of Howell Street  
23 and crossing South Union Street and crossing  
24 Lafayette from geometric curb lines or a narrowing  
25 of the street. The street has a narrow opening now.

1 In Re: Inner Loop East Transformation Project 22  
2 But I think that will also present its own  
3 set of problems and I think that a lot of  
4 consideration should be given to Howell Street  
5 entering South Union north of Lafayette Park and not  
6 right at that street intersection. Thank you.

7 MR. WAY: Thank you, Mr. Steinberg.  
8 Are there any more statements on the  
9 project?

10 I'd like to remind everyone again that  
11 additional written comments may be submitted until  
12 February 14th, 2014 to the address listed in the  
13 brochure or you can use the self mailer included in  
14 the brochure.

15 City representatives will be available for  
16 questions following adjournment of this hearing.

17 If there are no further statements  
18 concerning this project, I declare this hearing  
19 adjourned. Thank you.

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REPORTER CERTIFICATE

I, Colleen Lounsbury, do hereby certify  
that I did report in stenotype machine shorthand the  
proceedings held in the above-entitled matter;

Further, that the foregoing transcript is a  
true and accurate transcription of my said  
stenographic notes taken at the time and place  
hereinbefore set forth.

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Colleen Lounsbury