

# NBN6 MEETING SUMMARY

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| <b>Project Title</b> | South Avenue and Elmwood Avenue Reconstruction Project   |
| <b>Meeting Date</b>  | Monday, February 8, 2021                                 |
| <b>Meeting Time</b>  | 6:00 — 6:30 PM   |
| <b>Format</b>        | Zoom Meeting   |
| <b>Topic</b>         | Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Sector 6 (NBN6) Meeting |

On Monday, February 8, 2021, the project team participated in the Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Sector 6 (NBN6) virtual meeting to share project updates and gather further feedback from the stakeholders on the recommended design alternatives.

Thirty-nine (39) people were in attendance. A list of the attendees is included as Appendix A.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

In August 2019, the City of Rochester and Monroe County initiated the project to reconstruct two City streets, which include South Avenue (Elmwood Ave – Bellevue Dr) and Elmwood Avenue (Mt Hope Ave – South Ave). In addition, the project includes a connection along Elmwood Ave between the Highland Trail and the Elmwood Cycle Track. The scope of this improvement project is detailed below.

- **Street and Sidewalk.** Recommendations for pavement treatment, width modifications and geometric changes as well sidewalk improvements to be determined during planning & preliminary engineering.
- **Water.** South Ave (Elmwood - Reservoir): Replace existing 8” CI main with new 12” PVC and PE services. Elmwood Ave (Mt Hope Ave - South Ave): abandon 6” main, transfer services to 12” main.
- **Street Lighting.** Existing system is proposed to be replaced. New street lighting improvements to be determined during planning & preliminary engineering.
- **Sewer.** Replacement of receiving basins and repair/cleaning of laterals is proposed. Sewer main improvements to be determined during planning & preliminary engineering.

- **Traffic.** Existing signals within project limits to be evaluated. Specific traffic improvements to be determined during planning & preliminary engineering.
- **Areaways.** The project is to be reviewed for possible building areaways, vaults and window-wells within the project area may be abandoned or rehabilitated.
- **Streetscape.** Streetscape improvements to be determined during planning & preliminary engineering.

## PRESENTATION

Timothy Hubbard, City of Rochester, thanked NBN6 for providing the design team the opportunity to present project updates.

Reiterating the purpose of the presentation, William McCormick, Erdman Anthony, provided an overview of the project including the project location. Presenting an overview of the completed engagement activities, he noted that the input received from the public information meeting on October 20, 2020 and coordination with stakeholder groups has helped define the project goals. Those goals are:

- (1) Improve the street infrastructure;
- (2) Meet minimum design standards;
- (3) Maintain existing parking along the corridor;
- (4) Maintain existing trees along the corridor;
- (5) Provide pedestrian and bike facilities; and
- (6) Improve the condition of traffic control devices.

Bill summarized what the project team has heard from the stakeholders and public so far. He further detailed the recommended design alternatives.

- Improve intersection signage, crossing times, and pedestrian crossing enhancements to ensure pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Make modifications to the South and Reservoir Avenue intersection to create an offset intersection
- Parking on west side along South Avenue from Elmwood Avenue to Gold Street to be removed.
- Add bicycle Accommodations with potential for a hybrid cycle track; In street from Elmwood to Highland and one-way cycle track from Highland to Bellevue

He further reviewed the project schedule and next steps:

- Future Engagement:
  - Stakeholder Meeting (Late-February 2021)
  - Public Information Meeting #2 (Spring/ Summer 2021)
- Preliminary design complete/ design approval (Winter 2021)
- Detailed design complete (Fall 2021)
- Bidding starts (Fall 2021)
- Construction starts in 2022 and is estimated to be complete by 2023.

A copy of the meeting presentation along with other information and documentation is available on the project webpage at [www.cityofrochester.gov/SouthAndElmwood/](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/SouthAndElmwood/).

Questions and comments on the project can be submitted to Timothy Hubbard, Project Manager with the City of Rochester at [Tim.Hubbard@CityofRochester.Gov](mailto:Tim.Hubbard@CityofRochester.Gov).

## Q&A SESSION

The project presentation was followed by a live question and answer (Q&A) session. Comments and questions from the attendees along with the responses have been included below.

- **Who is in the stakeholder group (i.e. roles and organizations)? (Roxanne Townsend)** The stakeholder group includes representatives from neighborhood groups, as well as ReConnect Rochester and businesses along the project corridor.
- **Does the city envision South Ave to be a business corridor and not a transportation corridor? If businesses on the corridor are promoted, there will be a parking issue in the future and, possibly, increased demand for parking in the vicinity. (Bruce Mellen)** It's not part of the project scope.
- **Will the design include bus shelters at all the bus stops? (Bill Collins)** Bus shelters are controlled by RTS. Current bus shelters will remain, and future shelters are the purview of RTS.
- **Will the construction on this project be similar to the work that has been and is being done on Mt. Hope Ave (e.g. utilities, lane closures)? (Roxanne Townsend)** The project is currently in the design phase and the team is not looking into traffic detours at this time. There will be at least a 4-stage construction phase and, during construction, the work area will implement lane closures in a safe manner by shifting the traffic to one side and removing parking temporarily.

- **What about the needs for setting up parking during the Lilac Festival? Was the Lilac Festival committee consulted during the planning of the project? There is need to consider the festival and the potential impacts that may be imposed by changing the location of bicycles. Given there are multiple vendors and no parking and bicycle lanes, we're concerned about resident safety. (Sandy & Bill Brewer)** No parking will be removed except for some spots on the west side between Elmwood Avenue and Gold Street. The City will work with the Lilac festival coordinators/ organizers at the time of Lilac festival permitting.
- **Has the Fire Department been involved in these plans? The residents are concerned about the traffic backups when fire equipment enters or exits the fire house on South Ave.** Yes, coordination with utility agencies (including the fire department) was part of the initial outreach. The project team will work with the stakeholders to finalize design plans.
- **Would electronic signage (VMS board) be added during construction to make travelers aware of delays caused by construction?** Yes, signage will be installed during the construction phase of the project to warn commuters about potential delays or detours.
- Other comments from the participants included:
  - Potential zoning changes along South Avenue might be moving toward multi-use/multi-story. (Bruce Mellen)
  - Connect with Gary Kirkmire for development in that area. (Bruce Mellen)
  - Flashing beacon could be a trigger for epileptics (Sandy & Bill Brewer)
  - NextDoor app could be used for publicity.

## APPENDIX A: LIST OF MEETING ATTENDEES

### PROJECT TEAM:

Timothy Hubbard, City of Rochester  
Dominic Fekete, City of Rochester  
Eric Frisch, City of Rochester  
William McCormick, Erdman Anthony  
Jen Topa, Highland Planning  
Charvi Gupta, Highland Planning

### PARTICIPANTS:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| David ( <i>no last name provided</i> )   | John McMahon                           |
| Lisa ( <i>no last name provided</i> )    | Judy Hay                               |
| Sandy Brewer                             | JW Cook                                |
| Bill Brewer                              | Kelvin Knight                          |
| Bill Collins                             | Linda ( <i>no last name provided</i> ) |
| Bob, HPNA                                | Lisabeth Frarey                        |
| Brent Penwarden                          | Lorretta A Walker                      |
| Brian Hyde                               | Paul Minor                             |
| Bruce Mellen                             | Rose O'Keefe                           |
| Gisella ( <i>no last name provided</i> ) | Roxanne Townsend                       |
| Glynis Valenti                           | Scott Hewitt                           |
| James Demps                              | Stacey Bershod                         |
| Janet ( <i>no last name provided</i> )   | Susan Rodio                            |
| Jesse Peers                              | Thomas Polech                          |
| Joan Lindberg, Lilac                     | David Day                              |
| Joanne Guarnera                          | Thomas Polech                          |

### APPENDIX B: OTHER MEETING MATERIALS

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, there are video thumbnails for William McCormick, Charvi Gupta, and Judy Hay. A 'Recording' indicator is visible. The main content is a presentation slide with the following text:

## Public Engagement / Future Meetings

City of Rochester, NY  
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor  
Rochester City Council

- Public Information Meeting #1
  - October 20, 2020
- NBN6 Meeting
  - February 08, 2021
- Stakeholder Meeting
  - TBD (Late February)
- Public Information Meeting #2
  - Spring / Summer 2021

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/SouthAndElmwood/>

Logos for Highland Planning and Erdman Anthony are visible at the bottom of the slide.

At the bottom of the Zoom window, the control bar shows: Unmute, Start Video, Participants (38), Share Screen, Reactions, More, and a red Leave button.