

TOWN OF FALMOUTH, MAINE



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Key Facts About the Falmouth, Maine U.S. Rte. 1 Project

FALMOUTH, Me. (May 8, 2014) – The following are key facts regarding upgrades to U.S. Rte. 1 in Falmouth.

Project Development

- The roadway improvements will take place along a stretch of approximately 1 mile, between the intersection with Route 88 on the south end, and the Turnpike Spur on the north end.
- The project was approved by Falmouth voters after a lengthy planning process that included extensive public input. The total project will cost approximately \$12.3 million.
- Engineering design was completed by Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (“FST”) of South Portland, Maine; the General Contractor is Sargent Corporation of Stillwater, Maine.

Project Design

- Primary considerations for the project include:
 - improved viewsapes and attractiveness for drivers and pedestrians, leading to increased economic development along the corridor;
 - improved traffic safety for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Key aspects of the project include:
 - installation of improved crosswalks;
 - creation of median islands and turning lanes;
 - improved access/egress to side streets and private entrances;
 - improved bicycle amenities (intersections, shoulders, and grates);
 - burying energy and communications lines along most of the route;
 - installation of improved and wider sidewalks;
 - Improved street and sidewalk lighting;
 - landscaping to create a more appealing corridor.

(more)

Construction

- Two phases of construction will include:
 - Spring-Summer-Autumn 2014, during which major construction, including building medians, sidewalks and buried utilities, will occur;
 - Spring-Summer 2015, during which the contractor will re-pave the roadway, completing a previously-scheduled Maine Department of Transportation repaving project.
- Construction will follow this general approach:
 - Trenching for the installation of conduits, which will carry electrical, gas and data lines, will be set back from the roadway and is expected to produce minimal traffic disruption. The conduits will be located on the west side of the roadway (the same side as Wal-Mart, Staples, etc.).
 - Once the buried utilities are installed and energized, poles along most of the route will be removed.
 - Extensive landscaping (including many street trees), bicycle and pedestrian amenities, intersection improvements and other aspects of the project will be completed after the utility work is complete.

Route One Businesses

- The Town of Falmouth will work closely with the contractor to ensure there will be limited to no interruptions with business access. Businesses along Rte. 1 will be accessible for normal operations during the construction, and the Town encourages area residents to continue patronizing them. Several methods of construction management will be deployed to ensure a successful and positive outcome, including the following:
 - the Town expects that two-way traffic will be maintained during business hours during almost all of the construction period;
 - construction personnel will maintain access to all businesses along the corridor during operating hours;
 - Necessary crossings of driveways and Rte. 1 itself will primarily occur at night (during some night operations, some periods of one-way traffic with flaggers may be required);
 - the Town, its engineering firm and the General Contractor will work closely with area businesses and the utility services to ensure a smooth cutover of utility services once the services in the conduit are energized.

Communication and Project Updates

- It will be imperative for the Town and the contractor to continuously update businesses, residents, visitors, commuters and business customers about the status of the project including schedules, construction locations, and any changes in the project scope. The Town will deploy several methods of communication to ensure all stakeholders are informed about the project including the following primary channels:
 - the Rte. 1 section on the Town's Website: <http://www.town.falmouth.me.us>
 - a 'Rte. 1' subscriber e-mail list, which will be accessible from the Town's website;
 - updates to news media as progress warrants.