

ISLINGTON STREET CORRIDOR PHASE TWO PROJECT WORK SESSION

VIA ZOOM

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021

PORTSMOUTH, NH

TIME: 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Becksted, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor and Trace participating from their respective homes.

ABSENT: Councilor Trace

PARTICIPATING STAFF:

Karen Conard, City Manager; Peter Rice, Public Works Director; Eric Eby, Transportation Engineer; Terry Desmarais, City Engineer; Dave Des Fosses, Technician Supervisor; Robert Sullivan, City Attorney; Valerie French, Deputy City Clerk

Mayor Becksted called the Work Session to order at 5:33 p.m.

City Manager Conard stated that the Capital Improvements Plan is reviewed annually and is a planning tool that can be adjusted as needed. She introduced Public Works Director Rice who gave a brief presentation on the Islington Street Corridor Phase II project.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to move this project up due to the deterioration of the roadway and having been on the schedule since 1997 and moved back continuously.

Public Comment:

Mayor Becksted opened the public comment session:

Nicole LaPierre - thanked the Mayor and Councilor Trace for their advocacy in moving this forward as it has been on the schedule since 1997 and kicked down the road.

Ken Goldman – urged the Council to move ahead with this project.

Andrew Bagley – stated this is a main corridor in the city and in really rough shape and deserves to be improved as soon as possible.

Greg LaCamera – stated that Islington Street is the heartbeat of the city and it has been said that this will disrupt business, but the business owners want this to go forward now.

Robin Huslage – also wants this to be done sooner than later stating that the businesses have benefited by the previous upgrades and now it is time to do something for the residents of the area.

Angela Lambert – stated she has an office on Islington Street with elderly patients and the sidewalks are atrocious and need to be addressed.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Becksted closed the public comment session.

Councilor McEachern moved to adjourn at 6:24 p.m., seconded by Councilor Trace. Motion passed on a 9-0 roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by:

Valerie A. French. Deputy City Clerk