

PRESS RELEASE

For More Information Contact:
Nancy Carmer 610-7220

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City to hold Public Meeting on Islington Street Improvement Action Plan Options

On March 27, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the Levenson Room of the Portsmouth Public Library, the City, Art-Speak and consultants Richardson & Associates will host the final public visioning session as part of the city's Islington Street Corridor Improvement Action Plan Project.

This is the seventh in a series of public meetings on the plan and will focus on three improvement action plan concepts developed from input from stakeholders, city staff, the community at large and recommendations in previous safety and traffic studies of the corridor.

According to Economic Development Chairman Dana Levenson, "The Islington Street Project was initiated by the Economic Development Commission as part of its focus on the city's major corridors and gateways. The project goal is to create a long range plan of prioritized actions for corridor improvements. It will include short and long-term action-oriented recommendations for the Islington Street Corridor such as improved circulation, pedestrian and vehicular safety and appropriate economic development tools to benefit growing businesses in the corridor. The plan will also enhance and create opportunities for arts and cultural activity consistent with the goals of the Master Plan. The action items will take the form of general economic, policy, transportation, and open space recommendations which support the corridor's function, enhancement, and growth."

The City has retained consultants Richardson and Associates of Saco Maine to undertake this project. On March 10, 2008, the City Council held a joint work session with the Economic Development Commission at which the consultants presented a project overview, a summary of the public input to date and three conceptual options for the corridor.

The March 27th public session will last two hours and will be held at The Portsmouth Public Library on Parrott Avenue. Attendees will hear the results of the public visioning session for Islington Street in November 2007 in which participants responded to seven areas of interest and ranked specific opportunities pertaining to the corridor. Following the meeting, the consultants will prepare the final action plan including an implementation strategy and a proposed budget for the initial project years as some action item are short-range and others are long range.

A portion of the funds for this project have been provided through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. For questions please contact Economic Development Program Manager Nancy Carmer (610-7220) or Art-Speak Coordinator Sue Cobler (610-7222)