

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Project Files; Spencer Web Site  
**From:** Steven J. Tyler, P.E., Superintendent, and Spencer Utilities & Facilities Office  
**CC:** Adam D. Gaudette, Town Administrator; Eben Butler, Highway Foreman; VHB – Design Engineers; Project email list  
**Date:** July 10, 2012  
**Re:** **Reconstruction of Main Street (Route 9/31) from Grove St. to Elm/High St., Spencer 7/10/2012 Design Concept Public Workshop Meetings (3pm and 7pm)**  
**MassDOT Project File No. 606207**

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The following is a summary of the presentation and comments received during the public workshop meetings held for the above-referenced project on 7/10/2012, which included duplicate meetings/presentations at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM at Spencer Memorial Town Hall. Also attached are written comments received from the public.

### **E-MAIL LIST FOR PROJECT UPDATES**

If you wish to be on our project status email update list please send an email requesting to be placed on the Main Street Project updates list to [styler@spencerma.gov](mailto:styler@spencerma.gov). Please include “Main Street Project Updates” in your email subject line. A majority of our updates will be made electronically using this email list.

### **MEETING ATTENDEES**

See attached sign in sheets for meeting attendees.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPENING OF MEETING**

3 alternative concept plans handouts were passed out to the people to follow along during the presentation. Also handed out was a mailable single sheet for written comments.

Adam Gaudette opened the meeting and introduced everyone and had the people that attended the meeting to introduce themselves.

### **PRESENTED CONCEPTS, OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

Regarding the start of the project and the Town stated that it would be 2015 or 2016 and would last at least two full construction years. Construction would be paid by Federal and State managed Transportation Improvement Programmed (TIP) and that we are approved and in line for the necessary Federal TIP money. All design work will be reviewed and approved by MassDOT.

In addition to the proposed roadway reconstruction the project will include new LED lighting signal heads, on-street parking adjustments, traffic flow improvement, air quality benefits with traffic improvement and safety improvements.

Requirements include shared bicycle shoulder on at least one the side of the road. Overall shoulder options to be implemented include pedestrian access with sidewalks with no parking to be 1-2 foot shoulder; or remains status quos; or required minimum 4 foot minimum (5 foot preferred) shoulders. VHB and Steven Tyler explained how pedestrian crosswalks may be reconfigured / relocated under all options to make safety improvements.

It was discussed how Concept B pedestrian sidewalks at Pleasant Street may function and that we are looking into moving the pedestrian crossing near Mechanic Street to the westerly side of Mechanic Street would benefit safety. This relocation is where we would have the crosswalk instead of the east side Mechanic Street where a pedestrian fatality occurred about 4-5 years ago.

VHB and Steven Tyler explained how Maple Street traffic signal controller will be interconnected to the Pleasant Street signal controller to better coordinate the flow of traffic.

Steven Tyler explained that we are in line for TIP money for construction, we just have to keep moving forward so that we are ready when it is our time or even be ready early to step up if another project slips.

VHB (Brian Brosnan) Presented the Concept Options A, B and C (copies attached).

### **VHB WORKSHOP COMMENTS / NOTES 3-5 PM**

Parking potential on Sovereign Bank property? Parking garage?

Include stormwater BMP's (i.e. infiltration under street trees)?

Construction Phase: Possibility of night work?

2 year construction duration

Minimum 1 lane of traffic open at all times

Access to businesses 24/7 – some inconvenience (e.g. installation of new sidewalks)

New signing to augment missing/unclear directions/instructions for motorists

Traffic signals interconnected

Driveway from Pleasant Street to Library not shown on Option 3

Price Chopper entrance realignment – need to coordinate with owners for final design solution

Pavement design – 4" milling/pavement overlay may not be deep enough to remove all ruts on Main Street

Extend easterly project limits – remove additional pavement rutting/better define right turn lane into Town Hall

Option 3: Pleasant Street realignment – unanimous choice to include in overall design

## **VHB WORKSHOP COMMENTS / NOTES 7-10 PM**

Handicapped parking an issue for some businesses – Option 3: consider parking in space created west of Sugden Block vs. streetscape/landscape amenities  
Possibility of reducing 1 hour parking to 30 minutes – NO!  
Option 1 cheapest, Option 2 most expensive  
Option 1: parking spaces lost along southerly side of Main St. due to 3 lane configuration at Sugden Block (addition of WB Main turning lane onto Pleasant NB)  
Wall Street: do not block off, one way vs. two way  
Option 3: Safer crossing for pedestrians? Exclusive pedestrian signal phase?  
Option 3: Traffic movement conflicts - WB Main St free right turn onto Pleasant St NB vs. queuing WB Main St through traffic. WB Main St traffic turning left onto Wall St vs. queuing WB Main St through traffic  
Trolley tracks in front of Morty's (Curves)...?  
Changing signal timings will be an effective traffic improvement  
Move crosswalk from West side of Mechanics Street to in front of Whitco – safety issues?  
Main St @ Maple St intersection - Conflicts with “longer” vehicles turning right from WB Main St onto Maple St SB  
Revise driveway openings at Cumberland Farms  
Snow removal – Do not narrow existing sidewalk widths  
Undergrounding of utilities?  
Issue of traffic signals flashing during snowstorms – negotiating steep hill on Main St  
Construction impacts to businesses  
Option 3: Pleasant Street realignment – unanimous choice to include in overall design

## **KEY ISSUES, NOTES AND CONCERNS (SJT/SPENCER MEETING NOTES):**

### **Common Concerns & Issues**

Resident raised the possibility of Handicap Parking in open space west of Sugden block.

Residents and businesses raised concerns with interruptions during construction. Concerned with construction during the day disturbing businesses. Can there be night construction? Would like as much work done at night as possible.

Resident raised question, could Easterly limits be extended to make sure road rutting is all removed. Town Comment: Check easterly limits to determine if extent of existing rutting is addressed by this project.

Residents and businesses pointed out that the ruts/waves on Route 9 West bound at Maple Street keep returning soon after it is repaved. One commenter suggested concrete at this location to alleviate rippling effect.

Wall Street business, Barnstorm Cycles, stated the closure of Wall Street would be Unacceptable to them. If Wall Street were made one way Barnstorm Cycles would prefer one-way from Main Street Southbound.

Residents and businesses raised concerns with Route 9 West Bound turning right onto Pleasant Street because as soon as 3-4 cars back up the right turn is no longer available therefore the right

turn is really not functional because there are always 4 or more cars queued there. Town Comment: This limitation needs to be resolved by the designers.

Audience liked the realignment of Pleasant Street with Wall Street. All meeting attendees were asked and they did not think drivers would choose to take Wall Street as a cut through because they all felt it is much faster to take Main Street to Maple Street. No one disagreed with this.

One commenter asked ... Will left turns from Route 9 West bound onto Wall Street be allowed? Concern would be possible backup by the left turning vehicle.

Concerned with Route 9 East bound turning right onto Maple Street (Route 31) Southbound. Need to look at the Cumberland Farms Lot.

Commenter asked the Town to consider a 1-hour parking limit.

Commenter raised question about putting utilities underground. Several audience members would like to see that.

Residents and businesses would like to see streetscape and aesthetic improvements along the entire lengths to the extent feasible.

3pm and 7pm meeting both had unanimous support for the Concept B shifted Pleasant Street.

Residents and businesses very concerned with speeds and pedestrian safety on the round-a-bout alternative (Concept C).

Residents and businesses unitely agreed that they do not like the way the round-a-bout (Concept C) would change our home town feel. Too much loss of parking including the /and loss at the round-a-bout that can no longer be used to mitigate lost parking.

Resident comment on Concept C, Wall Street into round-a-bout is a bad geometry.

### **Comments/Concerns About Crosswalks**

At least one commenter would like to see a crosswalk near the corner of Sugden/Pleasant Street.

At least one commenter wants signal coordination with pedestrian movements.

### **Preferred Concept**

All meeting attendees for both sessions preferred Concept B by unanimous vote/poll.

### **Other Comments Received**

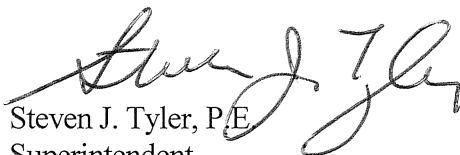
From Thomas Hopkins, a Spencer Resident and Director of the MAAB strongly recommended that we go look at the town of Lee, MA, to see their recent AAB/ADA access improvements. Mr. Hopkins stated this downtown was recently reconstructed and they did an excellent job on their dual level sidewalks and this may be something the Town of Spencer can learn from. Town Comment: The Town will make a field trip to review Lee.

From Resident Ginny Scarlet, asked if the town maintained parking lot by the Sovereign Bank can be redesigned to include better storm water management? An infiltration strip in the middle with water tolerant trees in it would provide shade, aesthetics, and brownie points with EPA/DEP. Could be landscaped as a rain garden and improve water quality. The lot would need upgrading to drain into it.

From Spencer Police/ Fire, all signalization should include emergency interrupt compatible with the existing fire department ladder truck.

The above public meeting summary and the attachments to this memorandum are understood to be an accurate recording of the project record. Please notify Steven J. Tyler, P.E., Superintendent, Spencer U&F, immediately if any clarifications, revisions or additions to the above items are necessary.

Feel free to contact our office at any time if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above matters or any other issue. Thank you for your assistance.



Steven J. Tyler, P.E.  
Superintendent  
Town of Spencer  
Utilities and Facilities Office  
[styler@spencerma.gov](mailto:styler@spencerma.gov)

#### Attachments

- Plans of Concepts A, B, and C as presented on 7/10/2012
- Meeting sign in sheets (3 PM and 7 PM)
- Photos from 3 PM public workshop meeting
- Written comments/forms received (3 total)
- Main Street Workshop Public Meeting Notice
- 6/30/2012 Workshop invite letter sent to abutters and businesses
- 7/2/2012 e-mail invite to businesses and residents e-mail list
- Self-addressed written comment form (2 pages)
- 7/20/2012 Workshop article from the Spencer New Leader

cc: file

# Main Street TIP Workshop

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

3:00 p.m.

Spencer Memorial Town Hall

McCourt Social Hall

## Sign-in Sheet

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Adam Gaudette	Town Administrator	agaudette@spencerma.gov
Steve Tyler	U&F Superintendent	styler@spencerma.gov
Beth McPherson	Registrar	
Suzanne Alarie	owner/Curves	Spencercurves@Verizon.net
ALLAN BERNHEIMER	SPENCER SHOPPERS VILLAGE/	ALLANB@WOODGREENNET.COM
JEFFREY MILLER	WOODGREEN SPENCER LP	JEFFM@WOODGREENNET.COM
Dina LeDuke	The Gypsy's Cauldron	meggysscauldron@yahoo
Roland Gauthier	Roland Gauthier CPA	rgauth@charter.net
THOMAS F. PARKER	FINANCE COMMITTEE	TPARKER269@AOL.COM
Ronae McPherson	resident	rmphe683@aol.
Sherry Shannon	U&F clerk	Rshannon@spencerma.gov
Kim Brown	owner Smokey Sizzles Salca	1CBROWN1214@aol.com
Neil Rivers	185 + 111 Main St	42riversj5@yahoo.com
John Stevens	Select Board	stevens1979@charter.net
PAT DALEY	SPENCER TRUS BANK	pdaley@spencersavingsbank.com
Miguel A. Perez	Mexicali Grill	chabelop14@gmail.com
Michelle Buck	Town Planner	mbuck@spencerma.gov
Michael Wong	CHIEF SAU RESTAURANT	NEWFORTUNES@aol.com
George Bell	ESBR Railroad	gbell@esbr.com
Barry White	Whitco	barry@whitco sales.com
RICHARD HEDSON	SPENCER SAVINGS	RHEDSON@SPENCERSAVINGS
Margaret Washburn	Conservation Comm.	mwashburn@spencerma.gov

More Design Commerce Jewelers

Michael J. Agley MJA Martial Art, Inc. grasshoppermja@verizon.net

Frank White Sewer Comm HTCWHITE@aol.com

Cliff Leinonen PO Box 318, B. Brookfield CLIFFL007@hotmail.com

Jonathan Viner Planning Board Viner8J@gmail.com

Brian Brennan VHB, Inc. bbresnan@vhb.com

# Main Street TIP Workshop

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Spencer Memorial Town Hall

McCourt Social Hall

## Sign-in Sheet

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Adam Gaudette	Town Administrator	agaudette@spencerma.gov
Steve Tyler	U&F Superintendent	styler@spencerma.gov
Mary Brany	Finance Committee	mbrany@yahoo.com
Thomas Lotti	Business Owner	TLOTTI9381@aol.com
Eben Butler	SPENCER Highway	
Peggy LaCina	Business Owner	
Daniel Lapierre	Business Owner	Spencer Auto Body Verizon, N.H.
Peggy Brany	Manager	Fisher Auto Parts
Mike Meloche	Atty	mmeloche@charter.net
Brenda Berard	American Styles	Brenda Berard@ymail.ca
James R. St. Peter Jr	Business Owner	Jim Saint Peter@aol.com
JOEL HARRIS	JTM Coins	same
Mike Harris	JTM Coins	508-505-0909
DOUGLAS CUTLER	BARNSTON CYCLES	508-579-7673
YOLY GOMEZ	" "	" " "
Mike Toomey	Resident	scitechmarketing@charter.net
Kurt Nordqvist	Town Resident	
Ed Bemis	Bemis Farms Nursery	ebemis@bemisfarmsnursery.com
Robin Hyland	Business Owner	508-867-9667
Alex Brown	Commer Jeweler	885 3385
Susan Sweet Ostromeky	James T. Ostromeky	77.5 885 6366

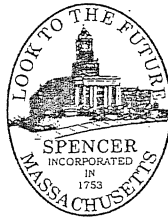




2012-07-10 Public Workshop Photo 001



2012-07-10 Public Workshop Photo 002



THE TOWN OF SPENCER, MA

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECT

Reconstruction of Main Street (Route 9/31) from Grove St. to Elm/High St.  
7/10/2012 Design Concept Public Workshop Meeting Town of Spencer  
MassDOT Project File No. 606207

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated.  
Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

Steven J. Tyler, P.E., Superintendent  
Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office  
3 Old Meadow Road  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Or e-mail to: [styler@spencerma.gov](mailto:styler@spencerma.gov)

2012-07-10  
10:10 AM  
288-228 (892)  
Comments

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official workshop transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Workshop Meeting.

Suggestion of problem with asphalt buckling in heat  
under heavy wear conditions due to tractor trailers  
& 10 wheelers. If hill & flat in front of Mexican Restaurant  
could be done in concrete - scarified for traction as  
it was done in Charlton on RT 20 near McDonalds - Ted  
So on. They had same problem - repeatedly repaired  
now holding up well. Worth looking into - if ground  
will only be a temporary fix. Thanks

Name

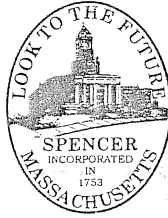
Organization

Address

Mari Seguin  
Carmichael Jewelers  
136 Main St  
Spencer

Title

President/Owner



## THE TOWN OF SPENCER, MA

### TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECT

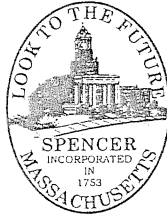
Reconstruction of Main Street (Route 9/31) from Grove St. to Elm/High St.  
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Spencer, MA 01562  
Or e-mail to: [styler@spencerma.gov](mailto:styler@spencerma.gov)

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official workshop transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Workshop Meeting.

*At one time, there was a vote to sell the Sugden Block for at least one million dollars. There was no interest at that time. Has there been any thought to demolishing the building and putting in a parking lot / small park. There was talk about this at that time since the building needed so much repair. Other than the cost of demolition, there would be little cost to provide parking in the center of town. I believe the vote to sell the building was about 7 years ago. As I remember, the rentals at that time did not provide enough money to address the cost of repairing the building.*



THE TOWN OF SPENCER, MA

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECT

Reconstruction of Main Street (Route 9/31) from Grove St. to Elm/High St.  
7/10/2012 Design Concept Public Workshop Meeting Town of Spencer  
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Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office  
3 Old Meadow Road  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Or e-mail to: [styler@spencerma.gov](mailto:styler@spencerma.gov)

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official workshop transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Workshop Meeting.

*Mechanic St Detour → No Parking / one side or both.*  
*building corner Mechanic/Temple → tear down - use parking = 53 Chestnut*  
*Green space dog friendly - poop bag dispensers - on RT 31/RT 9*

Name Cliff Leinonen Title Broker  
Organization Hansemarks Realty . Com  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

C. Leinonen  
1 of 2

**53 Chestnut  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Multi-Family**

MLS #: **71404721** Status: **Price Changed**  
List Price: **\$44,500**  
List Date: **7/3/2012**  
List\$/SqFt: **\$6.74**  
Days on Market (Total): **25** Days on Market (Office): **9**

**Property Features**

# of Units: **15** Type: **5+ Family - Rooming House**  
Total Rooms: **40** Apprx Acres: **0.06**  
Total Floors: **4** Apprx Lot Size: **2660 sq.ft.**  
Heating Units: Apprx Living Area: **6600 sq.ft.**  
Heating Zones: Garage: **0**  
Cooling Units: Parking: **0 --**  
Cooling Zones: Year Built: **1860**



**Unit Descriptions**

Unit	# Rms	# Brs	FB/HB	# FP	# Lvs	Flr#	Mon Rent	Lease	Rent Includes	Heating
<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>

**Annual Expenses**

Heating: \$ Management: \$  
Gas: \$ Miscellaneous: \$  
Elec: \$ Ann. Prop. Oper. Data: **No**  
Water: \$ Expense Source: --  
Repair & Maintenance: \$  
Trash Removal: \$ Gross Income: \$  
Sewer: \$ Gross Expenses: \$  
Insurance: \$ Net Income: \$

**Features & Other Information**

Basement: **Yes --**  
Disclosures: **Seller has never lived in property. AS-IS, Cash offer ONLY. Offer MUST include POF & 10% deposit.**  
Exclusions: **NO repairs /cleanout /Smoke cert to be done - ALL buyer responsibility. Buyer/agent do due diligence**  
Exterior: **Vinyl**  
Foundation: **Irregular**  
Frontage: **95 ft**  
Lead Paint: **Unknown**  
Living Area Disclosures: **Some copper missing/damaged. AS-IS**  
Sewer Utilities: **City/Town Sewer**  
Water Utilities: **City/Town Water**  
Short Sale w/Lndr.App.Reg: **No**  
Lender Owned: **No**  
**Tax Information**

**Remarks**

**Price drop! If this deal doesn't excite you - check your pulse, you may be dead! The good news: 15 residential units, (8)1br, (1)2br (6)boarding rooms; plus ~1200 sft of retail/rest space on ground floor. The bad: Needs significant rehab to bring back to life. ONLY cash offers will be considered. Seller motivated by cash & a quick close. Proof of funds and 10% earnest money must accompany offer. AS-IS, buyer to perform due diligence.**

Pin #:  
Assessment: **\$117,700**  
Taxes: **\$1445.36** Tax Year: **2011**  
Book: **73277** Page: **195**  
Cert:  
Zoning Code: **mixed use**  
Map: Block: Lot:

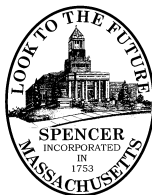
The information in this listing was gathered from third party sources including the seller and public records. MLS Property Information Network and its subscribers disclaim any and all representations or warranties as to the accuracy of this information. Content ©2012 MLS Property Information Network, Inc.

[www.HouseWorksRealty.com](http://www.HouseWorksRealty.com)

C. Leinonen  
2 of 2

**TOWN OF SPENCER**  
*Office of Utilities & Facilities*

Steven J. Tyler, P.E.  
Superintendent  
styler@spencerma.gov



3 Old Meadow Road  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Phone: 508-885-7515  
Fax: 508-885-9416

June 22, 2012

To: New Leader & Cable Access

From: Town of Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office

RE: Public Workshop Meeting

**ATTENTION SPENCER RESIDENTS  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING  
TO DISCUSS THE MAIN ST. RECONSTRUCTION AND  
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT  
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012  
TWO IDENTICAL MEETINGS  
1ST BEGINS 3:00 PM TO APPROX. 4:30 PM  
2ND BEGINS MEETING 7:00 PM TO APPROX. 8:30 PM  
AT  
MCCOURT SOCIAL HALL, TOWN HALL,  
157 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA**

**Please feel free to attend either workshop per your preference and convenience.**

**Thank you!**

**Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office**



## SPENCER TOWN CENTER

### MAIN ST. WORKSHOP



**Topic: Main Street Reconstruction Design**

**When:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 (2 Identical Meetings)  
1st Begins 3:00 PM to approx. 4:30 PM  
2nd Begins 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Where:** McCourt Social Hall, Town Hall,  
157 Main Street, Spencer, MA

**What:** The Town of Spencer and VHB will be presenting conceptual designs and soliciting design input from downtown businesses, residents and interested stakeholders.

**Who Should Attend:** Business owners, property owners, residents and stakeholders.

Our prior workshop went beyond the planning stage to present several months of research, analysis, design parameters and preliminary concepts for discussion. This workshop will present more advanced design concepts for discussion. Feel free to attend either workshop. Thank you!

**FOR INFORMATION CALL ADAM GAUDETTE AT 508-885-7500 EX. 180.**

**TOWN OF SPENCER**  
*Office of Utilities & Facilities*

Steven J. Tyler, P.E.  
Superintendent  
styler@spencerma.gov



3 Old Meadow Road  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Phone: 508-885-7515  
Fax: 508-885-9416

June 30, 2012

**Re: Spencer Main Street and Downtown Revitalization Project  
July 10th Design Workshop Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00PM)  
At Spencer Memorial Town Hall, McCourt Social Hall, 157 Main Street**

Dear Citizens, Business Owners and Property Owners of Spencer,

The purpose of this letter is to invite you all to the July 10th Design Workshop Meetings for Spencer Main Street and Downtown Revitalization Project.

Your input and comments at this stage are very important to the Town and the design decisions that will be made as a result of this process. This project will change the downtown segment of Main Street as we know it. In addition to making necessary roadway, traffic and safety improvements this project must also include intermodal improvements for transit/buses, pedestrians, handicap accessibility and bicycles. In addition we want to do as much as we can to revitalize downtown Spencer in ways that will increase commercial, recreational and other activities. We must also keep in mind that the changes will affect parking and other existing conditions. In order to accommodate all the necessary and desired improvements and to best enhance the overall revitalization effort it is very likely that there will be some loss of on-street parking on Main Street. In addition, circulation and turning movements on the side streets adjoining the project limits could also experience permanent changes.

Overall we feel that this is a very exciting time and project for the Town of Spencer. This project will reshape the future of downtown Spencer. For these and many other reasons your comments and input on the design concepts being considered is being solicited and is greatly appreciated.

**Your participation in this July 10<sup>th</sup> design workshop meetings is strongly encouraged and welcomed. This meeting will be critical to all project design decisions. Now is the time to let us know your ideas and/or concerns.**

Please feel free to call the Utilities and Facilities Office at (508) 885-7525 if you have questions regarding this information. We look forward to seeing you all at the workshop.

Sincerely,  
Steven J. Tyler, P.E., Superintendent  
Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office

[See Attachment – “Main Street Workshop Meeting Notice”](#)



## Steve Tyler

---

**From:** Steve Tyler  
**Sent:** Monday, July 02, 2012 3:49 PM  
**To:** Steve Tyler  
**Subject:** FW: July 10th Design Workshop Meetings for Spencer Main Street and Downtown Revitalization Project  
**Attachments:** Main St Design Workshop - Tues. July 11.pdf

Attention Interested Citizens, Business Owners and Property Owners of Spencer,

Below and attached is the public meeting notice for the **July 10th Design Workshop Meetings for Spencer Main Street and Downtown Revitalization Project**

All of you receiving this email have been contacted by this office and expressed interest the design concepts for this project. Your input and comments at this stage are very important to the Town and the design decisions that will be made as a result of this process. This project will change the downtown segment of Main Street as we know it. In addition to making necessary roadway, traffic and safety improvements this project must include intermodal improvements for transit/buses, pedestrians, handicap accessibility and bicycles. In addition we want to do as much as we can to revitalize downtown Spencer in ways that will increase commercial, recreational and other activities. We must also keep in mind that the changes will effect on-street parking and other existing conditions. In order to accommodate all the necessary and desired improvements and to best enhance the overall revitalization effort it is very likely that there will be some loss of on-street parking on Main Street. In addition, circulation and turning movements on the side streets adjoining the project limits could also experience permanent changes.

Overall we feel that this is a very exciting time and project for the Town of Spencer. This project will reshape the future of downtown Spencer. For these reasons and many others your comments and input on the design concepts being considered is being solicited and is greatly appreciated.

Your participation in the July 10th design workshop meetings is strongly encouraged and welcomed. Please plan to attend one or both of the workshops described herein and on the attached notice.

When: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 (2 Identical Meetings)  
1st Begins 3:00 PM to approx.4:30 PM  
2nd Begins 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Where: McCourt Social Hall, Town Hall,  
157 Main Street, Spencer, MA

Feel free to contact our office if any further questions or concerns.

Thank You,  
Town of Spencer  
Steven J. Tyler, P.E.  
Superintendent  
Utilities and Facilities Office  
3 Old Meadow Road  
Spencer, MA 01562  
[styler@spencerma.gov](mailto:styler@spencerma.gov)  
Tel: 508-885-7525

# SPENCER NEW LEADER

**GUZIK MOTOR SALES** **Jeep**

CELEBRATING OUR 50TH Anniversary  
as a Family Owned Business!

SUMMER CLEARANCE EVENT

Never a Document Fee  
Never A Dealer Prep Fee  
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Friday, July 20, 2012

## Plans presented for Main Street reconstruction

BY DAVID DORE  
NEW LEADER STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — People who attended a couple of meetings at Memorial Town Hall Tuesday, July 10 were presented with three options for reconstructing the downtown portion of Main Street (Route 9).

They picked Option B, which would upgrade Main Street to current standards, move Pleasant Street (Route 31) so its entrance is across from Wall Street, give traf-

fic turning from Route 9 westbound onto Pleasant Street its own turning lane to make it easier for large trucks to make the swing, synchronize the traffic lights at the Pleasant Street and Maple Street intersections, and keep almost all of the parking along Route 9. The top 4 inches of asphalt would be removed and replaced, and the entrance and exits from the Price

Please Read PLANS, page A14

# Preferred option calls for moving intersection with Pleasant Street

## PLANS

continued from page 1

Chopper parking lot onto Main Street would become a single entrance and exit.

One of the rejected ideas, Option A, was what Brian Brosnan from the Worcester office of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., called the "status quo option." It would have kept the current configuration of Main and Pleasant streets, but widened the travel lanes to 11 feet and put in shoulders that are at least 4 feet wide. One problem, Brosnan said, is that "we lost quite a bit of parking" along Main Street. In fact, all of the parking between Wall Street and Mechanic Street, except for a handful of spaces across from the Price Chopper entrance, would have disappeared.

The other rejected option called for a roundabout at the intersection of Main, Pleasant and Wall streets, similar to the one in front of Union Station in Worcester. There would be no need for a traffic signal, Brosnan

said.

"Everybody has a yield condition, and that improves the flow of traffic," he noted. "From a horizontal standpoint, this works."

But, according to Brosnan, about 14,000 square feet of land owned by Sovereign Bank — including the park where the Massasoit Hotel once stood — would have been taken for the roundabout and a relocated Pleasant Street. (Option B would affect about 9,000 square feet of the bank's land, including the park.) The traffic lights at Maple Street would be improved. Retaining walls would be needed to make the area flat enough for a roundabout; Brosnan said that could cost a few hundred thousand dollars. It was also possible the Kenwood Diner would have to move if Option C were approved, he said.

Brosnan seemed to agree with the audience in preferring Option B.

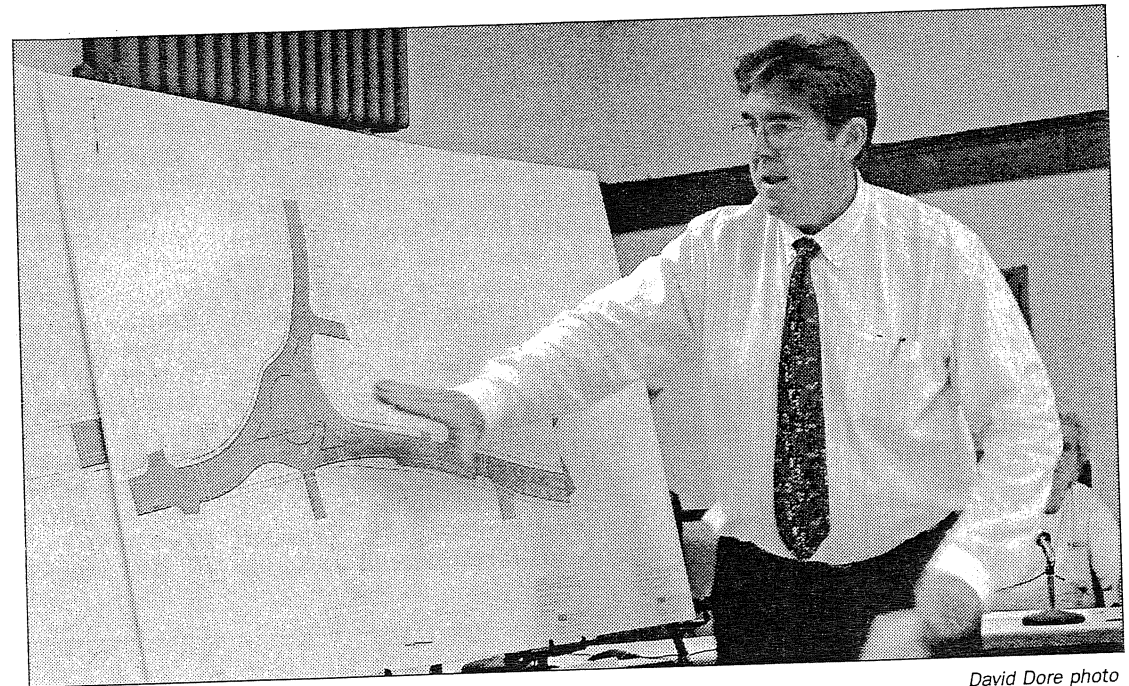
"Personally, I think this does the most justice to the downtown area," he said. "I think that by keeping the status quo we really don't solve all of the problems that are down there,

and a roundabout — it's a good concept, it's a good idea in concept, and we had to flesh it out as part of our process with MassDOT, but if it doesn't work it doesn't work."

No matter what option was chosen, the crosswalk at Mechanic Street — which now sits almost at the bottom of the hill in front of May Nails and Kaboodle Pizzeria and Grille — would move to the other side of the intersection. That has been the location of serious — and, in at least one case, fatal — accidents over the years.

With Option B, Brosnan said, one or two parking spaces would be lost by moving the crosswalk.

The purpose of the two July 10 meetings — one in the afternoon, the other at



David Dore photo

Brian Brosnan from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., in Worcester explains one of the options presented at a meeting the afternoon of Tuesday, July 10 on the reconstruction of Main Street (Route 9) in downtown Spencer.

night — was for VHB and town officials to present conceptual designs for improving downtown and get comments from residents and business owners. About two dozen people attended the afternoon session. A workshop was held in December to present research, analysis, design parameters and preliminary concepts.

Town Administrator Adam Gaudette said the next steps are to have a public hearing on the "preferred option" and move forward with plans until they reach the 25 percent phase. Among the items to be considered in the 25 percent plans will be using the newly created area next to the Sugden Block when Pleasant Street is moved and handicap parking for each of the businesses in the area. The state Department of Transportation will have to approve the plans.

"Earliest we would say is 2015 to get a shovel in the ground," he said.

The town is paying for the design with unspent money from previous budgets (also known as free cash) and Chapter 90 highway aid from the state. The town would also pay to acquire rights of way that might be needed during construction. In return, Gaudette said, the town would be eligible for funding from the federal government distributed by

the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

Because the project is getting federal money, Utilities and Facilities Superintendent Steven Tyler said, it must demonstrate improvements in safety and air quality and consider all modes of transportation, such as pedestrians, bicycles and public transit.

Reconstructing Main Street is part of a larger rehabilitation of the downtown area dating back several years. Most of Maple Street (Route 31) has been redone, the town got two grants totaling \$1.2 million for housing rehabilitation and a \$100,000 grant toward the redesign of Mechanic Street from Main Street to Cherry Street, and a downtown marketing study was completed.

Selectmen and Spencer officials believe the Main Street project is "obviously is a main priority," Gaudette said. "Downtown is the crossroads of 9 and 31. Most of our retail and commercial activity goes on here. People walk to shop here ... probably that stretch we have identified as the most important stretch."

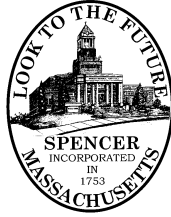
David Dore may be reached at (508) 909-4140, or by email at [ddore@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:ddore@stonebridgepress.com).

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**Reconstruction of Main Street (Route 9/31) from Grove St. to Elm/High St.  
7/10/2012 Design Concept Public Workshop Meeting Town of Spencer  
MassDOT Project File No. 606207**

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated.  
Please return your sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the meeting, or mail to:

**Steven J. Tyler, P.E., Superintendent  
Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office  
3 Old Meadow Road  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Or e-mail to: [styler@spencerma.gov](mailto:styler@spencerma.gov)**

The final date for receipt of written statements and exhibits for inclusion into the official workshop transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Workshop Meeting.

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