

**PORTSMOUTH** – The City will hold a Sept. 16 public information meeting on the \$3.7 million State Street Utilities Upgrade and Roadway Improvement Project, designed to replace and separate the aging combined sewer and stormwater pipes while improving the safety and the appearance of the corridor.

The 7 p.m. meeting in City Hall Conference Room A will discuss the yearlong project scheduled to begin at the end of September. All businesses along the corridor between Pleasant Street and the Memorial Bridge will remain open for business during the period, which was ranked by the State of New Hampshire as No. 1 for federal stimulus wastewater funding.

The project involves replacement of the aging piping with new sanitary sewer, storm drain, and water lines. The existing combined sewer system there consists of a brick-arch sewer constructed in the 1800's and the water main was built more than 100 years ago. The project has support from the City Conservation Commission and other environmental organizations.

The City and its consultant, CMA Engineers, Inc., worked with State Street residents and business owners to design a streetscape that improves vehicular and pedestrian safety by slowing traffic down through the narrowing of traffic lanes from 14-feet to 11-feet and providing bump-outs and other traffic-calming measures. The design also incorporates plaza areas to enhance the aesthetic beauty and emphasize a pedestrian feel and improvements to sidewalk areas while maintaining the existing number of parking spaces and loading zones.

The project, which the State ranked as the highest ranking wastewater project to apply for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will receive a \$2.2 million loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, of which \$1.1 million will be in the form of a grant. The project's remaining balance will be financed with funds set aside by the City in anticipation of this project.