



James Dealaman <jdealaman@portlandmaine.gov>

Newbury Street Project Application

Mike Brown <mwbrown@cumberlandcounty.org>
To: James Dealaman <jdealaman@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Sep 12, 2016 at 9:06 AM

Hi James-

Thanks for your note. I am attaching a copy of the completed application and a digital version of the site plan - please let me know if I should also submit to the planning@portlandmaine.gov address.

By way of background, we received a letter advising us that the City is planning on paving Newbury Street from the PPD lot out to Pearl Street that caused us to reach out and begin working with Bob Leeman. Cumberland County has begun undertaking efforts to improve the landscaping and façade appearance of the Courthouse. This includes the repointing of the historical portion of the facility, as well as a large multi-year window project that just completed its historical review.

One other area for which we recently obtained a permit for is to replace the overhead door that leads into the sallyport of the Courthouse with a more appropriate storefront to match other building aspects. And although the work to the adjacent sidewalk was not slated for this year, the prospect of doing so prior to the paving of the street was too appealing to resist.

Specifically, we began exploring the concept of reducing the sidewalk depth in the area immediately adjacent to this overhead door. As you may be aware, we utilize a bus to transport prisoners from the Cumberland County Jail to the Cumberland County Courthouse for initial appearances and sometimes trials and sentencing. Currently, when the bus is parked there it creates a bottle neck for vehicular traffic (including Portland Police cruisers) traversing Newbury Street, it presents challenges for vehicles entering and exiting the parking garage, and it also exacerbates sight line challenges for pedestrians crossing the street.

If this portion of the sidewalk were to be reduced it would immediately alleviate all of these issues, and would also improve overall security as the distance prisoners walk between the secured vehicle and the secured facility would also be reduced.

Unfortunately Bob Leeman departed, but Chris Branch and Mike Farmer have both been very helpful in getting this potential project back on the radar screen. Prior to dropping off the plans at City Hall I also dropped off copies to the Portland Police Department as our abutters, and left a message for City Traffic Engineer Jeremiah Bartlett to give both a chance to provide additional feedback and suggestions.

Please advise what, if anything, else I can do to help facilitate this. You are welcome to visit the site at any time to meet, discuss and review all aspects of the proposed project.

Best Regards,
Mike Brown
Asst. Facilities Director

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Cumberland County

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