

# Complete Streets project set to begin soon in Newington

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NEWINGTON – The Town is set to begin a \$3.3 million improvement project along the Maple Hill and Robbins Avenue corridor later this month.

The Department of Transportation’s Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) awarded Newington a grant that covers the entire project. Construction is expected to begin Aug. 29 and be completed by the end of summer 2023.



Erica Drzewiecki | Staff – A section of Robbins Avenue in Newington that is part of the Town's Complete Streets Project, now in the construction phase.

“It’s a 210-day duration of construction, not counting December through February,” Town Engineer Gary Fuerstenberg told the Herald. “Our plan is to complete the Maple Hill segment this year and then complete the Robbins Avenue segment in spring and summer of 2023.”

The entire project corridor is less than two miles in length. It begins along Maple Hill Avenue from New Britain Avenue to Robbins Avenue, then turns right onto Robbins and continues across Willard Avenue, ending at Main Street.

Planned improvements will include milling and paving, sidewalks, drainage, turn signals and the reconstruction of Vivian Path. The section of Robbins Avenue between Maple Hill and Willard will be reduced from four to two lanes, with a center left turn lane and new bike lanes. There will be some widening to accommodate turn lanes and width restrictions.

A Public Information Meeting on the project is set to take place next Thursday, Aug, 25 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall. A notice of this meeting was mailed to about 250 residents and businesses along the project corridor.

“We just want to let the public know what’s happening as we start construction,” Fuerstenberg said. “We do not expect any road closures... we expect to be able to complete the work maintaining two lanes of traffic.”

Berlin-based contractor Colossale Site Works will be completing the work and Thompson Green Tectonic Engineering Consultants out of Rocky Hill will be the construction inspector.

Increasing Newington’s bike-ability has been a priority for Fuerstenberg since he started with the town in 2017.

“The only bike lanes currently are at the West Hartford/Newington town line,” he pointed out. “We plan to expand the bike lanes in the central part of town and link them to bike lanes in other towns where we can.”

A bike repair station will also be installed along the corridor as part of the Complete Streets project, courtesy of a grant from the Central Connecticut Health District.

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