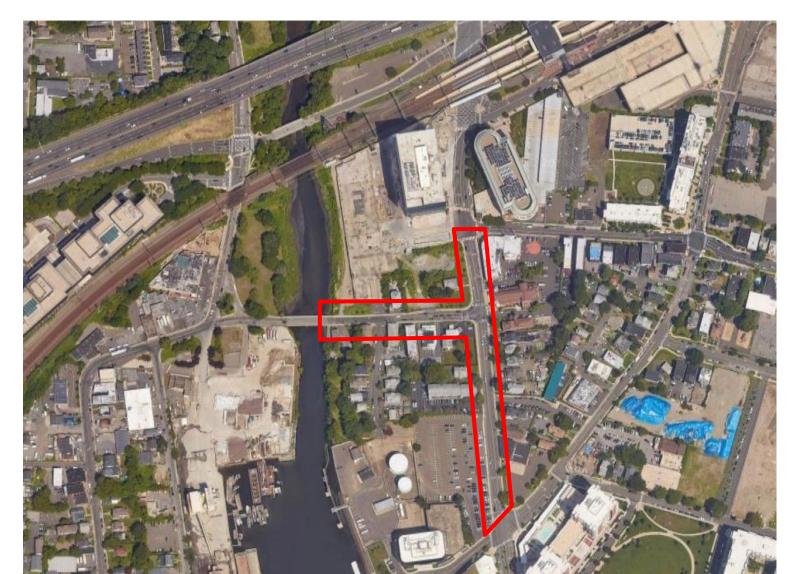
# LU30.032

Initiating the Process of the Acquisition by Negotiation or Eminent Domain of Rights of Way

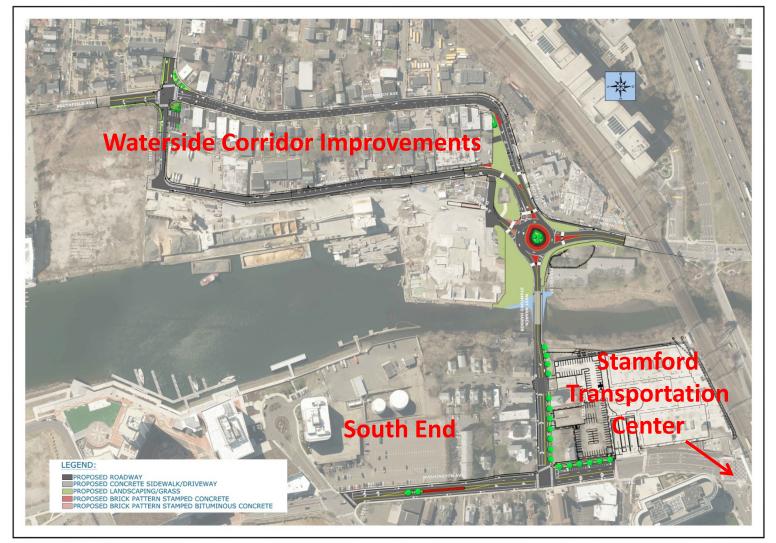
for the Washington Boulevard and Pulaski Street Widening Project.



The City needs to widen Washington Blvd between Henry Street and Atlantic Street, and widen Pulaski Street between Washington Blvd and the Pulaski Street Bridge. This has been a proposal for a decade – it is now an urgent priority.



This project facilitates the completion of a decade long range plan to improve transportation and traffic operations around the Stamford Transportation Center, within the South-end, and to the Waterside Corridor Improvements.



## **Land Use Committee History**

LU30.032 RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Initiating the Process of the Acquisition by Negotiation or Eminent Domain of Rights of Way for the Washington Blvd and Pulaski Street Widening Project.

```
10/10/19 – Submitted by Bureau Chief Travers
10/30/19 – Held by Committee 4-1-1
11/25/19 – FAILED in Committee 4-4-0
12/03/19 – Held by Full Board 19-16-0
12/09/19 – Held at Steering
01/14/20 – Approved by Planning Board
01/29/20 – Approved by Committee 4-1-2
02/03/20 – Held by Full Board 28 – 6 - 0
02/26/20 – Approved by Committee 5-0-1
03/02/20 – Held by Full Board 23 – 6 - 2
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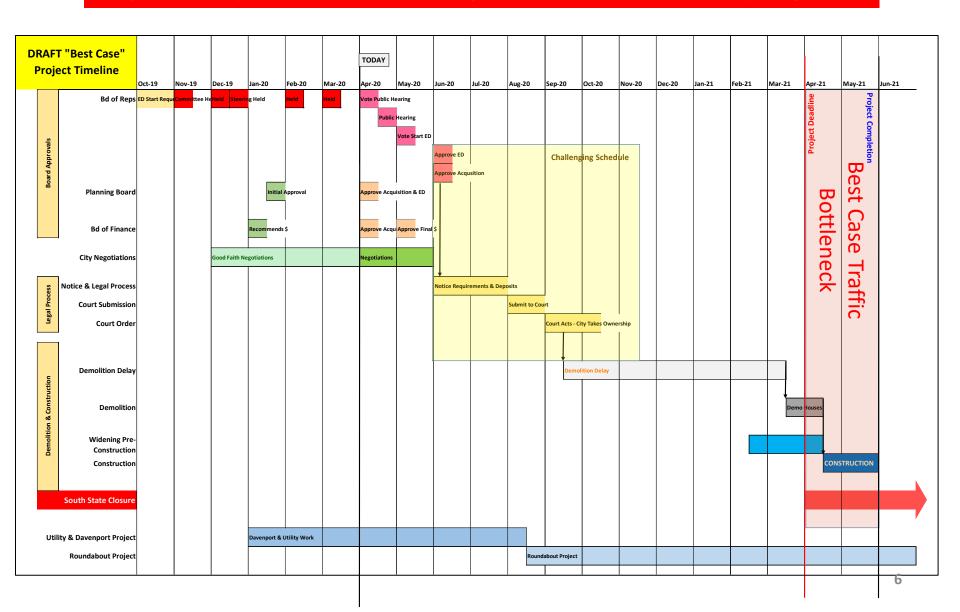
# **Project Timeline & Urgency**

As has been reported to the Board previously, completion of this project is urgent due to anticipated traffic developments . . .

The City has been informed by CTDOT that the State anticipates closure of South State Street beginning April 2021.

Washington Blvd. and Pulaski St. need to be widened ahead of the closure of South State Street in order to handle diverted traffic.

#### Project is very behind schedule. Significant traffic issues in Spring 2021



## **Approval Timeline**

April 6 – *BoReps* approves Public Hearing

May 4 – **BoReps** adopts resolution **initiating** the acquisition of property by negotiated agreement or eminent domain

#### City Actions:

- Mayor issues report for public inspection.
- Director of Administration to provide owners with notice/written report to the BoReps
- Mayor to refer project to the Board of Finance for approval

May 14 – BoFinance approves compensation

June 1 – **BoReps** adopts resolution accepting the Director of Administration's report and directing that the improvement be carried out.

## Legal Timeline

#### June

- BoReps transmits its resolution to the Mayor for signature.
- Director of Administration provides notice to persons whose lands are to be taken, with the amount of compensation to be paid.
- Court process begins:
  - Statements filed and money deposited with Court.
  - Notice provided to property owners

#### **August**

Proof of notice submitted to Court.

#### September

- Certificate of taking issued by Court & filed on land records
- Taking is complete.

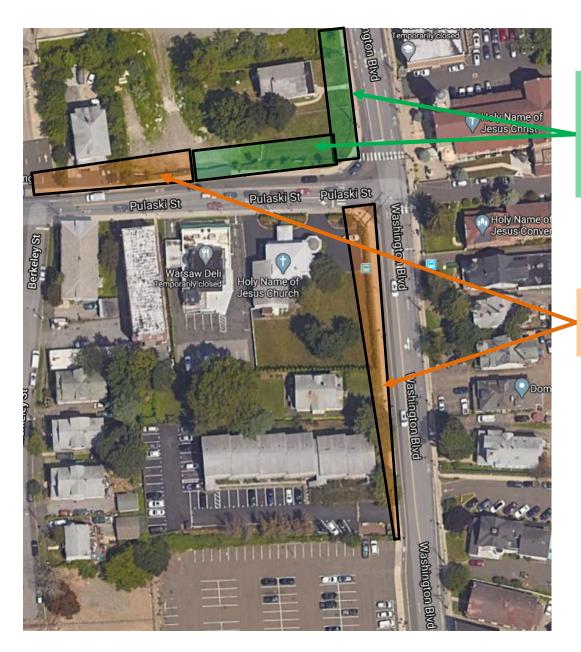
October to March – Demolition delay of 6 months

#### April 2021

- CTDOT closes South State Street creating Traffic delays on Pulaski & Washington Blvd
- Demolition begins

June 2021 – Transportation Improvements completed

## Land needed for Project Widening



Land acquisition agreements already in place

Eminent Domain

## Washington Blvd Widening



Church wants to retain full use of property in order to maximize development opportunity.

Empty House – many challenges to the lot.

Because of multiple fractional ownership cannot be practically acquired without eminent domain

Condos have a parking shortage & encroachment issue.

ABRAHAM WOPSEY 1915-1944
MICHAEL WOPCCY 1927-1951
DAVID M. ROSEN 1948-1967
JULIUS B. KURIANSKY 1952-1992
SYDNEY C. KWESKIN 1960-1998
MONROE SEVERMAN 1950-2003
SAUL KWARTIN 1951-2008
EMANUEL MARGOLUS 1966-2011

ANTHONY R. LORENZO HOWARD C. KAPLAN JUDITH ROSENBERG EDWARD G. MELLION OF COLNISEL

EDWARD M. KVESKIN
DAVID M. COHEN
MARBHALL GOLDBERG
STEPHEN A. FINN
STEVEN D. GRUSHKIN
"STEVEN M. FREDERICK
ERIC M. HIGGINS
"OLOFFM M. PREDERICK
"OLOFFM M. PRENOWEKI, B.
"DANIEL M. YOUNG
"WILLIAM M. DAVIOREN
"KURGIRL M. MRAINI
"ADAM J. BLANK
"LEONARD M. BRAMAN
"WILLIAM M. CARELLO

"EDMUND M. REMONDINO COUNSEL

'DANIEL B. BRILL MICHAEL T. CANNATA II GESSI GIARRATANA SARAH GLEASON BRIAN KLUBERDANZ ZACHARY J. PHILLIPPS

'ALSO NEW YORK BAR

NEW CANAAN OFFICE: 70 PINE STREET NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 TEL 2034972-1700 WOFSEY, ROSEN, KWESKIN & KURIANSKY, LLP

**Condos** 

600 SUMMER STREET • STAMFORD, CT 06901-1490 • WWW.WRKK.COM • 203-927-2300 • 203-967-9273 FAX

April 3, 2020

Matthew Quinones President Stamford Board of Representatives 888 Washington Blvd, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor PO Box 10152 Stamford, CT 06904-2152

> Re: Proposed Sale of Land in Relation to the Widening of Washington Boulevard

Dear President Quinones:

This office represents the Bridgewater Condominium Association, Inc., located at 256 Washington Boulevard in connection with impacts on the Association of the City's proposed widening of Washington Boulevard. It is our understanding that the City is contemplating a land swap whereby it would take from the Association approximately 934 square feet of land fronting on Washington Boulevard and give to the Association approximately 6,200 square feet of land adjacent to 256 Washington Boulevard.

The Association supports this proposal and hopes that the City will expeditiously move forward with the land swap.

As you are likely aware, the conveyance or receipt of any real property by our Association requires various notice to be provided to our members, meetings, and a formal vote of unit owners to approve of any such transaction. We have informally polled unit owners and believe there is sufficient support from unit owners to

approve a land-swap. If and when the City finalizes the details of any land-swap, please let us know so that we can get it scheduled for a formal vote by unit owners.

The Association understands that to effectuate this project eminent domain may be the most efficient process and has no objection to that.

If the Board has any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me.

Very truly yours, WOFSEY, ROSEN, KWESKIN & KURIANSKY, LLP

> By: <u>Adam J. Blank</u> Adam J. Blank

April 3, 2020

Matthew Quinones President Stamford Board of Representatives 888 Washington Blvd, 4th Floor PO Box 10152 Stamford, CT 06904-2152

Condos

Re: Proposed Sale of Land in Relation to the Widening of Washington Boulevard

Dear President Quinones:

As you know, I am the President of the Bridgewater Condominium Association, Inc. I have reviewed the attached letter from the Association's attorney and I agree with everything stated in it.

Sincerely yours,

Vince McClean

Vince McClean President

Bridgewater Condominium Association, Inc

#### Hi Cindy,

My apologies for not getting back to you. As most, we are all in a chaotic mode right now. However, I did have a chance to discuss and share with the pastor the recommended land swap. We are in favor of the swap, provided that the land gives us as much development options as we had previously (as in the # of units) and there is nothing about getting this land rather than the land that will be acquired by the City that would negatively impact the approvals for the project – in other words, we are made whole as a result of the swap. With this understanding, we are comfortable moving this forward. Hopefully this helps.

If we should have a call, let me know and we can set it up.

And thanks for your expression of concern, we are well here...I hope you are too.

Anne

**Church Property** 

#### Dear Cindy,

in response to the letter from the City of Stamford (April 4, 2020), I would like to let you know that the parish of Holy Name of Jesus continues to discuss an acceptable solution to the proposed taking of property owned by the Parish with the City of Stamford. At this point, the Parish is willing to work with the City on either a negotiated acquisition or an eminent domain proceeding that will make the parish whole in its plans for the development of the property. Based on the city's plan to do a land swap, we support moving forward. We reserve the right to remove such support at any point in the future if these negotiations are not satisfactory for the needs of the Parish.

Sincerely,

Fr. Pawel M. Hrebenko Pastor

**Church Property** 

# **Acquisition Summary**

## 21 Pulaski Street – Full Taking

To accommodate the widening of Pulaski Street.

## 274 Washington Bl. – Full Taking

To accommodate the widening of Washington Bl. and to address the development rights of 4 Pulaski Street and parking deficiencies of 256 Washington Bl.

## 4 Pulaski Street - Partial Taking/Land Swap

To accommodate the widening of Washington Bl. we propose a land swap which satisfies the property owners concerns.

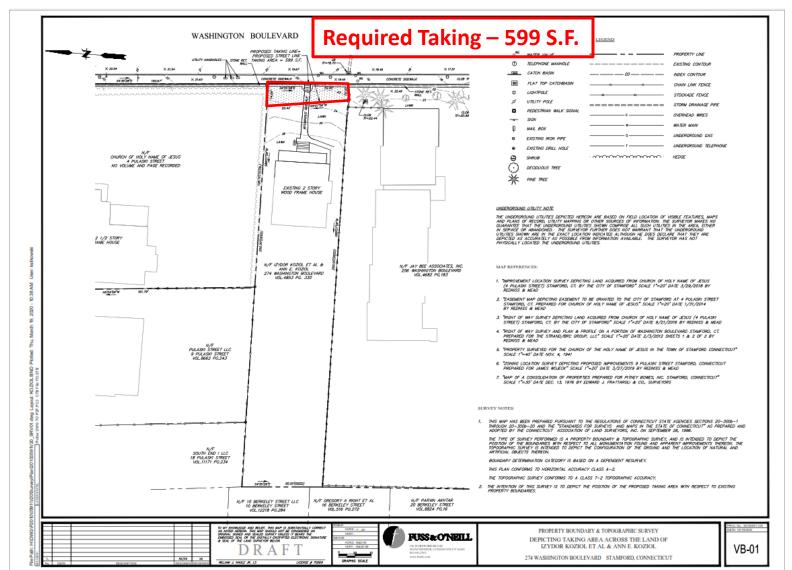
## 256 Washington Bl. - Partial Taking/Land Swap

To accommodate the widening of Washington Bl. we propose a land swap which satisfies the property owners concerns.

# - Next Step — Approval For Public Hearing

In order to mitigate impending traffic congestion, approval is needed now for a public hearing to begin the negotiation/eminent domain process.

# Property Acquisition – 274 Washington Boulevard

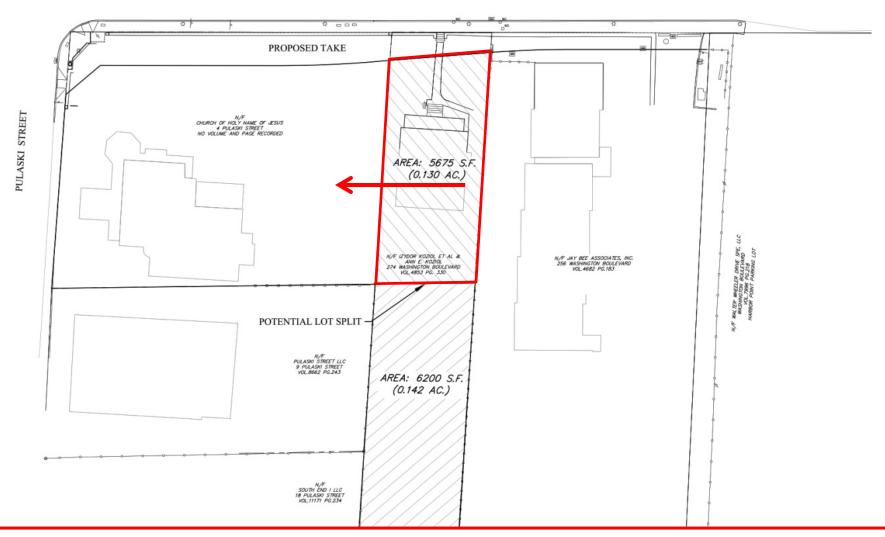


FUSS&O'NEILL

DEPICTING TAKING AREA ACROSS THE LAND OF CHURCH OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS

4 PULASKI STREET STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

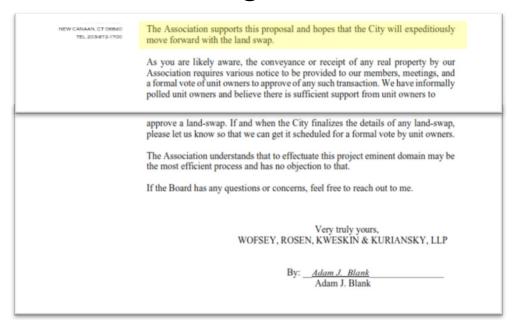
VB-01

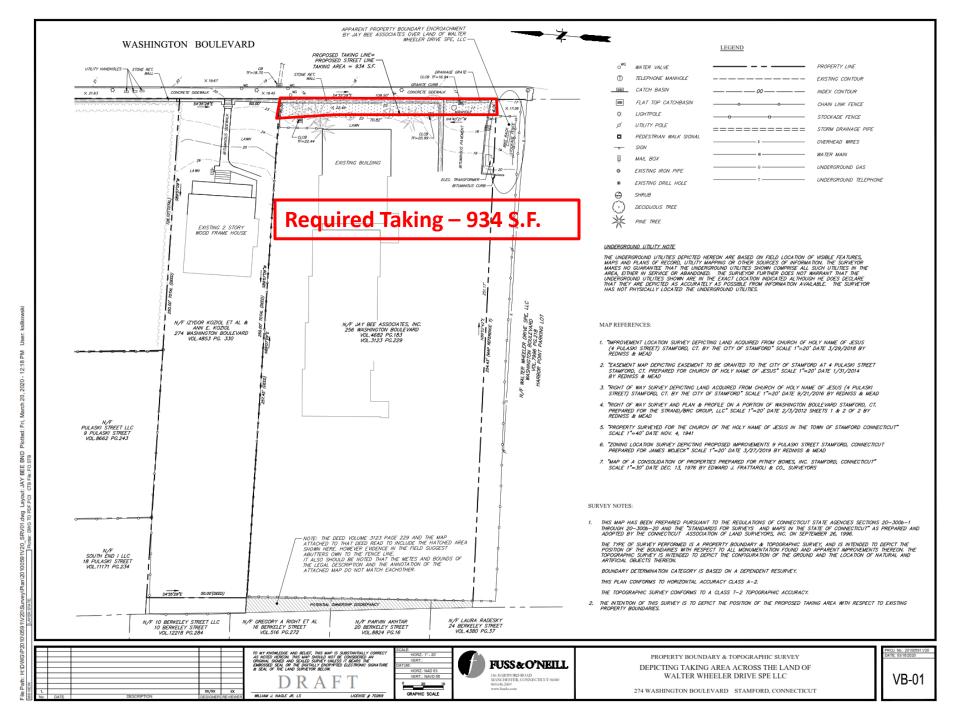


**City Proposal:** Split front portion of 274 Washington Blvd. parcel to meet existing property lines and provide Church w/ front portion (5,675 S.F.) as compensation for land necessary for roadway widening and to preserve the Church's future development rights.

## Property Acquisition – 256 Wash. Blvd.

Our understanding is that several existing parking spaces on this property encroach onto the adjacent property owners parcel and building permits were never taken to develop the expansion of this parking lot. The City recognizes the need for more parking at this site to serve the existing condominiums.





**City Proposal:** Split rear portion of 274 Washington Blvd. parcel to meet existing property lines and provide Condos w/ rear portion (6,200 S.F.) as compensation for land necessary for roadway widening and to allow for rear expansion of parking area and additional green space.

