

Plain Street / Rte 139 Widening Project

May 15, 2012

The Department of Public Works Engineering Division and the Planning Department have been working together to widen a one mile section of Rte. 139 from one lane to two lanes in each direction. The project also includes signaling the Enterprise Drive intersection.

Current Status

The construction began in March 2012. It is expected to be completed in 2014. For more information on this project contact Mr. Charles Swanson Project Manager DPW Engineer (781) 834-5574.

Background

Route 139 is the main east-west arterial road that connects most of the Town to Route 3. The geography of the Town and the location of three rivers limit the Town's transportation circulation patterns and place a higher burden of traffic on Route 139. The Town of Marshfield has been working on plans to improve capacity on this one mile section of Route 139 for over ten years.

The Town's Master Plan was completed in 1998 and updated in 2002. In both plans there was discussion about the need to address "significant traffic congestion" on Route 139. In 2004 the Town retained Vollmer Associates to conduct a Corridor Improvement Study for Route 139. The study was completed in 2005 and made recommendations for widening a one mile section of Route 139 from School St. to Furnace St. from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction to improve traffic flow to eliminate a bottleneck that causes traffic back-ups on a daily basis.

Rte 139 is a State owned roadway; therefore the State Department of Transportation is responsible for paying for the cost of widening the road. The Town of Marshfield, working with property owners in Enterprise Park, took responsibility for contracting with an engineering firm to design the roadway widening plans.

In 2004 the Route 139 Traffic Mitigation Revolving Fund was established. This public / private partnership agreement required new businesses in Enterprise Park to contribute payments into the fund to help offset costs for the engineering design plans to widen Rte. 139.

In 2005 the Board of Public Works hired Tetra Tech Rizzo Associates to produce engineering plans for designing the one mile section of road widening.