

# TOWN OF VERNON

## Office of the Mayor

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Town of Vernon Plans Sidewalk Expansion Project

### *Existing Sidewalks Would be Linked to Enhance Accessibility and Pedestrian Safety*

**(VERNON, Connecticut)** – The Town of Vernon is planning an approximately \$1.35 million project to enhance the sidewalk network in Vernon by providing connections between existing sections of sidewalk with the goal of increasing pedestrian safety and convenience.

The town is anticipating a Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation that will fund construction. The grant will be administered by the Capital Region Council of Governments.

The Town of Vernon has allocated funding from the fiscal year 2024 capital budget to fund construction administration and inspection by a contractor. The plans will be developed by town engineering staff.

“Enhancing pedestrian safety by expanding sidewalks has been an ongoing effort over the past several years,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. “This project will add significantly to our sidewalk network and make traveling along busy roads safer and more convenient for our residents.”

Town Engineer David Smith said work is planned for five locations in Vernon and will consist of the installation of about 7,800 feet of sidewalk. The work areas are:

- South Street roughly from Hartford Turnpike to Henry Park.
- Hartford Turnpike near Vernon Center Middle School, from the Baptist church property along the front of VCMS and then down Dart Road to meet the existing sidewalk in front of Strong Farm.
- Talcottville Road near Naek Road.
- Two segments on Dobson Road, along the Firestone Tire store and on the south side of I-84 from the existing bridge walk crossing Campbell Avenue and crossing Dobson Road near the trailhead to the Talcottville Ravine Trail.
- Lake Street from Lake Street School to Montauk Drive.

**A public information meeting where people can learn more about the project and ask questions is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25 in the Council Chambers on the third floor of Town Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

Bid documents for the project, which include progress drawings, are posted on the town website, [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov). Click on the “Bid Opportunities” button and look for Contract No. 2125.

Project construction bids have not yet been issued, but the town is anticipating awarding a contract in spring 2024 with anticipated completion in fall 2024.

The information meeting will be video recorded and the video will be posted to the town website.

### **About the Town of Vernon**

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of more than 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov).

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