



Councilman Chris J. Coschignano

The Town of Oyster Bay has been awarded a grant under the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) for improvements to downtown Syosset. The project's objectives will include enhancement of the area's visual appeal and improvement of "walkability." The area of concentration will extend along Jackson Avenue from Convent Road to Cold Spring Road / East Woods / Muttontown Road.

In September 2009, the Town issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering services and has recently selected Nelson & Pope, Engineers & Surveyors (N&P), a consulting engineering firm located in Melville to perform this work. N&P is teamed with their sister firm Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC for environmental planning services and B. Thayer & Associates for landscape/streetscape design and land surveying. The Consultant's contract for engineering services with the Town is expected to be finalized in March 2010 and the design phase of the streetscape improvement project will proceed, beginning with preliminary design and land surveying.

The preliminary design will focus on the development of the streetscape design treatments. Proposed streetscape elements are expected to include: new decorative sidewalk for the east side of Jackson Avenue (between Ira Road and Cold Spring Road), decorative street lighting, benches, trash receptacles and landscaping at several locations. The preliminary design phase will also include the development of recommendations to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing Jackson Avenue.

According to the project manager at N&P, streetscape designs may be available for Town input within three months. Following selection of preferred design treatments by the Town, the consultant will complete a Design Report for review by the NYSDOT and the project will be evaluated under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). These elements are required for all projects which receive federal funding and often involve lengthy review times. When Federal / State agency review of the preliminary design and environmental documentation is complete, the project will proceed to the Final Design phase where the Town's consultant will prepare plans and specifications for construction of the improvements. Under the current schedule, it is anticipated that construction document will be completed in early 2011 and construction of the improvements will begin in mid-2011 with completion in Fall 2011.

While the Streetscape Improvement Project is being advanced, the Town will continue to work with the Syosset Steering Committee and NP&V towards implementation of other recommendations included in the Syosset Downtown Redevelopment & Revitalization Plan.