

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

N E W J E R S E Y

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10/30/2024

RE: Summit Park Line from Morris Avenue to Russell Place

Dear Resident,

The purpose of this letter is to provide an overall project update and to offer a follow-up to the meeting that was held on September 25th on Russell Place.

Schedule Update:

- Authorization to formally bid this project will be voted on at the November 6, 2024 Council Meeting.
- Plans are being finalized and sent to NJDOT for review and approval since they are partially funding this project. Plans will likely be sent to NJDOT the first week of November.
- Bids for this project will be received and awarded in the first quarter of 2025.
- Construction will begin in spring 2025.
- Construction is anticipated to take six (6) to nine (9) months.
- The Park Line Steering Committee met last week to best incorporate residents' concerns and will meet again in January to develop a system to best communicating updates to the community and incorporate feedback as further phases of the Park Line is rolled out.

Project Update:

- The Park Line Steering Committee met on October 23, 2024.
- The fence along the west side of the proposed trail will be increased to eight (8) feet tall where needed to ensure the privacy of the adjacent resident's property.
- Additional deciduous trees will be included as part of the bid for installation on the slope for further screening.
- Proposed evergreen trees along the fencing will be a minimum of six (6) feet tall.
- An irrigation system will be included to assist the proposed plantings in flourishing in the first years.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Is any parking being proposed as part of this phase of the Park Line Project?
No. A concept of a parking lot has been deleted.
- Will the City be considering any traffic measures on Russell Place as part of this project?
No. The City will continue to investigate traffic in the area independently of the Park Line Project. The anticipated traffic generation for this Project will be minimal.
- When will the next phase of the Park Line Project, beyond Russell Place, begin?
There is no time line for any future phases of the Park Line project. The goal remains to connect it to Briant Park, but planning for the next phase would likely not take place until late 2025 or early 2026.

- What route will the Park Line Project take through the Onyx (Kenvue) property?
See above. A route will be finalized as part of the planning process for future phases.
- How will emergency services respond to incidents on the Park Line?
The City's emergency services have previously confirmed publicly their ability to respond to this park once it is completed. They have not reported any issues after nearly five (5) years since the first phase was completed between Broad Street and Morris Avenue.
- Will additional access to the Park Line be considered?
Yes. The City is actively working on designing a sidewalk and stairwell on the south side of Broad Street.
- Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the Park Line?
The City and its DPW will be responsible for the maintenance of this park like any other city park.
- What will the hours of operation of the Park Line be?
The Park Line will be subject to all other applicable rules and regulations that are in place for its park system and is anticipated to be closed from dusk till dawn.
- Will this section of the Park Line be open during winter weather?
Weather dependent. Since crews will not be able to get to snow removal immediately, it will be marked as closed in advance of and during major winter storm events until crews can clear the path.
- Is it possible that this section of the abandoned railroad would be reactivated?
As part of the agreement between NJDOT and the City, NJDOT reserved the right to reactivate the rail line.
- Will there be any environmental impact because of this project?
Disposal of any railroad ties will be done in accordance with any/all applicable regulations and will be done so in a manner that meets those standards.

Plans and renderings of the proposed work can be viewed on the Construction Updates page on the City Website at the link below:

<https://www.cityofsummit.org/171/Construction-Updates>

For any questions, feel free to reach out to the Engineering Division at (908) 273-6404.

Sincerely,



Kirolos Salama
Engineering Assistant

CC:
Aaron Schrager, City Engineer & Director of Community Services,
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