

From: Canalwalk Friends <friendsofthecanalwalk@gmail.com>
To: "Alex B. Morse" <morsea@ci.holyoke.ma.us>,
Date: 11/13/2012 03:51 PM
Subject: Holyoke Canalwalk/MPO Meeting

Dear Mayor Morse,

It was great to see you at the MPO meeting last Thursday. A lot of interesting information was presented, albeit some of it pointed to some pretty grim prospects regarding Mass Highway's budget deficits. What was exciting and positive was the announcement by the DOT that the completion of 75% design stage of Canalwalk Phase II is due this week. This is great news.

As both Phase II abutters, members of the Friends of Canalwalk and art event coordinators, we had a few questions about the projected construction schedule and the nature of the impact on the surrounding area.

The arts buildings along the second canal have events planned for spring, summer and fall of 2013, art openings, classes, open studios and the annual Brick Race, all of which happen on Race Street. It would be helpful to know how the construction might affect our spring activities, traffic, parking, etc.

It is our understanding that HG&E is planning on completing the utility/infrastructure work before the actual construction goes to bid. Is this correct? Also, can you or your office provide us with a projection of how and when Phase II of the canalwalk will unfold following the completion of 75% of the design phase? The sooner we would know this, the better we would be able to plan our events around potential construction.

Thank you for all your efforts and support of the Canalwalk project, the Holyoke arts community and the revitalization of downtown.

Best Regards,

Nancy Sachs & Kari Gatzke
Members, Friends of the Canalwalk