



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

PRESS RELEASE

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**Rendering of the Proposed Monument Square
Traffic Improvements**

WOONSOCKET, RI: The Stadium Theatre Performing Arts Centre has joined forces with Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, her Administration, Woonsocket's City Council and BETA Engineering of Cumberland, RI to create a 'Traffic Calming' strategy for Monument Square. This area has been a particularly hazardous thoroughfare in Woonsocket. It has been the site of numerous accidents and close calls. It is imperative that this issue be addressed due to the increased activity and the future expansion of the Stadium Theatre.

The reconfiguration of Monument Square will provide improved pedestrian and vehicular safety through a reduction in the expansive size of the intersection. The reconfiguration will result in the following benefits:

- Reduction in pedestrian street crossing distances
- Improved delineation and location of crosswalks for enhanced pedestrian visibility
- Improved handicapped accessibility
- Reduced impervious surfaces and increased green space for streetscape enhancements
- Dedicated drop-off area for reduced congestion within the intersection
- Simplified and managed traffic movements through Monument Square to enhance safety
- Reduction in vehicle's speeds through implementation of traffic calming measures
- Safer and more efficient access to the Municipal Parking Lot

Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt and her Administration are in full support of this project as well as the Woonsocket City Council who passed a unanimous resolution of support to allow the Stadium to move forward with the proposed plan.

BETA Engineering donated over \$10,000 in architectural drawings to the Stadium to begin this project. They have extensive experience in this area as they are the firm that helped correct the flow of traffic in front of the Providence Performing Arts Centre.

The remaining project expenses will be paid for by funds raised by the Stadium Theatre through grant funding.

“The Stadium Theatre Foundation cares deeply about the safety of its patrons, and the thousands of children accessing the theatre’s education programs as well as our friends at the Beacon Charter School. Remedying this issue will not only make this area a more pleasant place to frequent but most importantly improve the safety of Monument Square.” – Cathy Levesque, Executive Director/CEO

“It is imperative that the City keeps the economic success that is the Stadium Theatre, moving forward. The Stadium Theatre and the Beacon Charter School are leading the way in ushering in our downtown arts community. The City’s Department of Public Works has long targeted the need to address the traffic at Monument Square and it is now in the works. In my Administration, we believe in progress!” – Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt

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