



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

**PRESS RELEASE**

July 27, 2015

Contact: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt 767-9205  
Steven D'Agostino, Director of Public Works 767-9209

**City of Woonsocket Department of Public Works**  
**To Address Longstanding Traffic Issue**

Highland Corporate Park, Park East Drive and Mendon Road

**WOONSOCKET, RI:** Anyone that works at the Highland Corporate Park and exits at certain times of the day knows the issue; the intersection at Park East Drive and Mendon Road has a tendency to become significantly backed-up. In response to this ongoing problem, Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt initiated a meeting with Steven D'Agostino, Director of Public Works and Scott Gibbs, President of EDFRI (Economic Development Foundation of Rhode Island). "After hearing from so many individuals and also having experienced it firsthand, I felt that it was imperative to find a solution to this everyday problem."

Based on that meeting, Director D'Agostino, with the support of EDFRI, has set plans in place that are sure to make a difference. "After studying the issue, talking to officials from the City, the State, EDFRI and consulting Engineering staff, I have brought to all a new configuration to help alleviate congestion," stated Director D'Agostino.

Director D'Agostino's plan is to realign and restripe approximately 650 feet of Park East Drive. This will result in one incoming lane and two outgoing turn lanes at the intersection of Mendon Road. The center lane will allow traffic to exit either left or straight onto Mendon Road. The right lane will be right turn only. "After discussing with EDFRI, I believe you will see a significant improvement," stated Director D'Agostino.

Accordingly, on July 24<sup>th</sup>, Safety Marking, Inc., of Richmond, RI, will lay out the new concept between 9:00am and 2:00pm. On the evening of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 8:00pm, Safety Marking, Inc. will grind existing lines and paint the new traffic pattern.

“EDFRI has been working closely with Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt and Director D’Agostino on investigating short-term, mid-term, and long-term strategies to manage traffic concerns in Highland Corporate Park in Woonsocket. The strategy to re-stripe the entrance and exit on Park East Drive is an intelligent and cost-effective short-term strategy to increase the capacity of Park East Drive during peak afternoon travel. EDFRI has been impressed by the responsiveness of the Mayor in addressing these concerns,” stated Scott Gibbs, President of EDFRI.

Mayor Baldelli-Hunt praised both Director D’Agostino and Gibbs. “This is exactly the type of ‘thinking put into action’ I want to see evolving from my Administration. This is the meaning of going beyond the status quo, and working with all stakeholders to find mutually beneficial solutions”.

**###END###**