

ELECT

Dan Knapik

MAYOR OF WESTFIELD

For Immediate Release
October 8, 2009

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Investing in Our City's Infrastructure

Over the past eight years, I have been proud to work with city and state leaders to ensure that we move forward with a modernization plan for our City's transportation and utility infrastructure. As Ward Two City Councilor, my top priority has been to advocate for investment in our City's oldest neighborhoods. To that end, my efforts have been successful as many streets have been resurfaced or completely rebuilt and sidewalks and utilities in our oldest neighborhoods have been replaced.

I have worked hard to secure investment of the City's limited resources in our infrastructure, but there remains so much more that needs to be done. Since 2002, our City has seen the completion of the \$13 million National Guard bridges on Route 20, \$5.4 million in city expenditure on Old Towne Neighborhood Rehabilitation projects, commencement of work on the long-awaited \$54 million Great River Bridge project, and we have received approval from state and federal authorities to move forward on the \$15 million Main Street-Broad Street project. Our City, in cooperation with state and federal officials, must re-dedicate itself to a long-term and sustainable effort to invest in the next generation of major infrastructure projects.

My top priority as it relates to federal-state initiatives in our City remains the development of the Columbia Greenway. Since initial planning meetings in 1999, I have been a staunch advocate in City Hall for this project. I am pleased the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has included \$360,000 in our 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan to complete the design of the southern section of the Greenway, and I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of \$80,000 in local funds to match this state grant to push this project forward. As Mayor, I will remain engaged in the efforts of the Greenway Advocacy Committee to ensure that this project is completed as soon as possible.

Our City requires partnership with the state and federal government on several other projects as well- the replacement of the Cowles Bridge at Southwick Road, the reconstruction of Route 187, additional investment in the City's downtown "Gas Light District," and a long-term strategy for improvements on East Mountain Road, Southampton Road, and Western Avenue. In order to make these projects real, serious work on capital planning needs to be done today.

When elected Mayor, I will work with the city council, school committee and our citizen stakeholders to ensure that a realistic capital spending plan be developed. Implementation of this program will ensure that the investments already made to our infrastructure and capital equipment will not be wasted and long term maintenance costs reduced. By having a program in place, we can accomplish this necessary work within the finance structure of our existing budget.

****PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3rd! ****

For a ride to the polls call 562-1390 or email at dknapi@msn.com

danknapikformayor.com