

July 13, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

City Encourages Citizens to Speak Up Through New Options

- Proposed railway changes on tap for Rountree public meeting July 17
- Letters to SGF event streamed live from The Library Center July 17
- Ideas needed for James River Freeway and Campbell Corridor July 25

The City of Springfield is looking at new ways to increase civic engagement and will provide a few new options in coming weeks.

First up: City officials are hoping an informational website and interactive online survey will supplement a neighborhood input session 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 17 at Rountree Elementary School. Officials are looking for objective feedback on a traffic issue in the city's Rountree neighborhood. Rountree neighborhood is defined by Glenstone/National/Cherry/Catalpa borders. At stake is a decision whether or not a proposal to make railway safety enhancements moves forward. The site will include all of the information provided at the input session, along with an online survey.

That same night: City of Springfield will live stream a town hall forum at 7 p.m. on springfieldmo.gov. The event is organized by Stry.us, in partnership with the Springfield-Greene County Library district. Representatives from City Hall, as well as the business, non-profit and university communities, will provide answers to questions posed in letters collected all over town.

Lastly: A new, interactive website to gather opinions on the future of James River Freeway and Campbell Avenue corridor will take things a step further. Citizens are encourage to visit springfieldjrforcampbell.com to join an interactive discussion, submit and vote on ideas, and earn points if other citizens like their ideas. A public meeting 5 p.m., Tuesday July 24 at The Library Center will provide additional information.

"We're trying new things and using new technologies in hopes to both increase awareness about issues affecting citizens and increase the voice citizens have in the process. It's important we find easier ways for citizens to be able to communicate with us," said Greg Burris, City Manager. "Not everyone can physically attend a public meeting, or even wants to. But they may want to quickly 'like' an idea from their mobile phone, give us some quick feedback on a proposal, or attend a virtual meeting. We're excited about the possibilities."

For more information, contact: Cora Scott, Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement, 417-864-1009 (office) | 417-380-3352 (cell), cscott@springfieldmo.gov