



In Progress: the 63rd Street Streetscape Improvement Project

The 63rd Street Streetscape Program, to improve upon the section that falls between City Avenue and Lancaster Avenue, began in early October. When completed this project is expected to enhance the business climate and greatly improve pedestrian safety. Creating an accommodating and walkable environment along 63rd Street, home to abundant residential uses, SEPTA's Overbrook Station, and several restaurants, was the primary goal. This lively pedestrian environment demands lighting and safety upgrades beyond what the present conditions provide.

The most noticeable safety improvement associated with this project will occur at the intersection of Overbrook Avenue and 63rd Street. A curb extension along the northern end of Overbrook Avenue, nearest Drexel Arms Apartments, will create shorter, safer pedestrian crossings at the intersection, while allowing for the sidewalk to be reconstructed and widened to six feet in the immediate area. This planted grass curb extension, combined with new painted crosswalks, will also serve to slow traffic as it enters the residential portion of the corridor and bring greater attention to motorists of the high-volume foot traffic in the area. The other major component of this streetscape project, which will further improve safety and reinforce the historic nature of Overbrook Farms, is the installation of decorative pedestrian-scale lighting fixtures. These new lighting fixtures will brighten the corridor, forming a

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more accommodating evening/late-night atmosphere for residents, transit riders, and restaurant patrons. Moreover, the new village-style lighting will supplement the work of the Overbrook Farms Club to preserve and protect the historic fabric of the neighborhood.

The construction of the curb extension, re-painting of the crosswalks, and new ADA-accessible curb ramps at 63rd Street and Overbrook Avenue should be completed by late November 2012, with the installation of the new decorative lighting being completed in late January 2013. Seeding of the grass curb extension, signaling the com-

pletion of the project, will take place in April 2013.

The 63rd Street Streetscape was funded by the City Avenue Special Services District, City of Philadelphia, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. State Senator Vincent Hughes was instrumental in securing state funding for the project. Financial support from Philadelphia was procured with the assistance of Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. The project was organized by Terry Foley of the City Avenue Special Services District with support from the Overbrook Farms Club Traffic and Parking Subcommittee.