

Route 50 ideas to be unveiled tonight

Walking path extension, roadwork are among consultant's suggestions

By [LEIGH HORNBECK](#), Staff writer

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SARATOGA SPRINGS -- A consultant hired to recommend ways to make the Route 50 entrance into the city more attractive will reveal her suggestions at a meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight at the Saratoga Spa State Park.

The Capital District Transportation Committee hired ***Elan Planning and Design*** earlier this year to study the stretch of highway between the southern picnic area of the state park to New Street, just south of the Price Chopper Plaza on Route 50/Ballston Avenue.

About 45 people showed up at a workshop in January to volunteer suggestions for improvements. Some called it the "service entrance" to Saratoga Springs compared to Route 9 and Union Avenue, which are landscaped and inviting.

Lisa Nagle of Elan Planning, said her recommendations range from projects that could be done quickly, such as signs for pedestrians and new striping; to long-term goals that involve road reconstruction.

"What we're going to talk a lot about is extending Railroad Run, a walking/cycling path that ends at the YMCA," Nagle said. "Ideally, this path would be extended to cross Route 50 into the Spa State Park."

Extending Railroad Run would create a safe route for people on foot and on bicycles to travel from the Saratoga Springs High School to the YMCA, to the park, Nagle said. The top priority laid out in the study was to make the area safer and increase connectivity between neighborhoods, trails, and the state park.

Other priorities include creating gateways, such as a landscaped, divided highway to make the area more attractive.

Once the study is complete this summer, it will be turned over to the state.

To learn more about the project, go to <http://route50corridorstudy.wordpress.com>.

The meeting tonight will be held at 6 p.m. in the Gideon Putnam room of the spa state park administration building.