



Mayor Anita Dugatto
City of Derby, Connecticut

PRESS RELEASE

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A Huge Step Forward for Downtown Derby Redevelopment

DERBY - Derby Mayor Anita Dugatto is proud to announce that the City of Derby has just been awarded \$5 million by the State Bond Commission to support its downtown redevelopment efforts.

"This award is a huge step forward in our effort to restore downtown Derby to a robust center of economic and community activity," Dugatto said.

The \$5 million award will pay for the construction of the main street grid in the City's downtown redevelopment zone.

"The road will literally lay the groundwork for private development," Dugatto said.

The City applied for the funds to jumpstart the implementation of its newly adopted downtown master plan. Derby's downtown master plan was created in consensus with the community through *Downtown Now!*, a comprehensive planning project lead by internationally renowned urban planning firm DPZ Partners. The project was fully funded by a \$445,000 Urban Act Grant from the State of Connecticut.

Derby's downtown master plan was endorsed by its Planning and Zoning Commission in January, 2017.

"Implementation of the plan will be driven by private market investment," Dugatto said.

Dugatto points out that one of the valuable features of Derby's downtown master plan is its ability to be implemented incrementally.

"The success of our project does not rely on one large developer with very deep pockets. While we would certainly welcome that, we are not depending on it - all our eggs will not be in one basket. We hope that this approach will enable smaller local developers to play a part in our economic growth," Dugatto said.

Recently, the former Lifetouch property at 90 Main Street was purchased by a local developer with intentions of spearheading development consistent with Derby's newly adopted downtown master plan.

"The purchase of this key property is a good indication that we are on our way," Dugatto said.