

# Trending Developments



FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Volume 6, Issue 3

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## Responses Received for Davol St/Rt. 79 Improvements RFP

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On January 17, 2017 the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Davol Street and Route 79 Improvements.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is proposing to reconstruct the existing elevated Route 79, which runs along the eastern bank of the Taunton River in Fall River, Massachusetts, as an at-grade urban boulevard. The Route 79/Davol Street Corridor Study was conducted to study potential alternatives that best facilitate economic development and improve mobility, connectivity, and safety for all modes. The study recommends two at-grade alternatives (Alternative 2 and Alternative 2 Modified) for further evaluation. The selected design will be based on the further evaluation of the two alternatives recommended by the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor Study and the results of the environmental assessment process.

Several existing transportation and socio-economic needs were addressed by the study. These include a lack of connections between Fall River neighborhoods and its waterfront, as well as a lack of adequate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations surrounding the waterfront area. The study also identified potential new development parcels created by the new roadway alternatives.

The study evaluated the corridor area at two levels: the Focus Area where potential improvements would take place, and the larger regional transportation impact area. The Focus Area consists of the existing Route 79 and Davol Street East and West corridors between Cedar Street and the Veterans Memorial Bridge. Alternatives for the interchange of I-195 and 79 were not included in the corridor study, as it is being reconstructed as part of the MassDOT Accelerated Bridge Program under a separate Design-Build contract.

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## 958 Jobs Available

Looking for a job?

Visit [froed.org](http://froed.org) then select the "Current Employment Opportunities" tab. Next click "Job Search" and this will launch an interactive database.

Within this database alone there are currently **958** employment opportunities within a 5 mile radius of Fall River.

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## Davol St/Rt. 79 RFP

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The existing elevated Route 79 presents a physical and visual barrier, separating downtown Fall River and its neighborhoods from the waterfront. The City of Fall River sees the removal of this barrier as an important factor in achieving their vision of revitalizing the City of Fall River's waterfront along the Taunton River. Reconstruction of Route 79 as an at-grade boulevard increases access to the waterfront and creates five parcels of land for redevelopment, totaling 9.9 acres for Alternative 2 and 12.2 acres for Alternative 2-Modified, respectively. It is estimated that these additional parcels will support approximately 1.2 million square feet of new development. The Fall River Redevelopment Authority recently hired a consultant to develop an Urban Renewal Plan along the city's waterfront to plan for future redevelopment of this area. Efforts to develop preliminary design for the Route 79/Davol Street improvements will need to be coordinated with the city's Waterfront Urban Renewal Plan to ensure that the goals and outcomes of both are aligned. Additionally, the Fall River Redevelopment Authority is undertaking a master plan for the waterfront, and efforts will need to be

coordinated to ensure consistency throughout Fall River.

In addition, the Route 79/Davol Street Corridor developed and evaluated alternatives with a Working Group of stakeholders, representing neighborhood advocacy groups, bicycling advocates, regional planning and transit agencies, environmental/ water resource groups, as well as state and federal government officials and staff. Two public meetings were held during the course of the study, with meeting materials were provided in English, Portuguese and Spanish. We anticipate the public process will continue through the design phase.

The Scope of Work under this project includes environmental permitting and development of preliminary and 25% design submissions for the Davol Street/Route 79 Improvements.

Seven proposals were received in response to the RFP and will be reviewed over the next month by an evaluation committee that consists of both MassDOT and local representatives, including Kenneth Fiola, Jr. of FROED. It is anticipated that the award will be announced by late April.

## Miles for SMILES 5K Road Race

On April 23, 3017 People, Incorporated will host the Ninth Annual Miles for SMILES 5k Road Race and Walk. It is a measured 5k in the Fall River Industrial Park starting at 900 Riggensbach Road.

This event is an opportunity to help SMILES create, support, and sustain mentoring relationships right here in the community. By helping raise funds for the Ninth Annual Miles for SMILES event, you will help fulfill the mission of SMILES mentors to educate, inspire and engage leaders of the future.

The greatest challenge facing the program continues to be obtaining substantial funding necessary to properly support SMILES' quality programming throughout school in our region.

This year, Miles for SMILES is asking all race participants to go the extra mile! Spread the word to your friends, family, and colleagues to help with fundraising efforts. Every dollar raised at Miles for SMILES will help maintain hundreds of mentoring relationships.

This race is chip timed. All runners and walkers MUST register through Racewire. Runners and Walkers must register on:

[mfs2017.racewire.com](http://mfs2017.racewire.com)

To donate to Miles for SMILES visit

[www.firstgiving.com/SMILES/MFS2017](http://www.firstgiving.com/SMILES/MFS2017)

Kids fun-run will begin at 9:00am and the 5K Road Race will begin at 9:30am.



Running is like Mentoring. The reward is in the journey!

Ninth Annual  
**Miles for SMILES**  
5K Road Race & Walk

9th Annual  
**MILES for SMILES**  
5K Road Race & Walk  
Title Sponsor: BayCoast Bank

700  
SUPPORT  
MENTOR  
CHALLENGE  
INSPIRE  
ACADEMIC  
HEALTHY  
FRIENDS  
MENTOR  
MENTOR

New Route! New Date! New Reasons to Get Involved!  
**Sunday, April 23, 2017**  
Fall River Industrial Park  
9:00 am Kids' Fun Run | 9:30 am 5K Run & Walk

To register for the race visit [MFS2017.racewire.com](http://MFS2017.racewire.com).  
Visit [Firstgiving.com/SMILES/MFS2017](http://Firstgiving.com/SMILES/MFS2017) to help us reach our goal of \$100,000.  
SMILES is an affiliate program of People, Incorporated.

Join the journey of reaching our goal of \$100,000!

## Trending Developments



### Fall River by the Numbers...

Community	Median Sales Price Jan-Dec 2016	Median Sales Price Change from 2015	Sales Volume Jan-Dec 2016	Sales Volume Change from 2016
Acushnet	\$291,500	16.60%	102	-12.07%
Attleboro	\$285,000	4.59%	446	32.34%
Berkley	\$317,850	-0.67%	64	8.47%
Dartmouth	\$302,500	4.31%	346	10.19%
Dighton	\$308,250	6.31%	94	34.29%
Easton	\$395,000	-1.25%	231	33.53%
Fairhaven	\$232,500	0.11%	227	18.23%
Fall River	\$215,500	0.23%	370	17.46%
Freetown	\$325,000	9.43%	120	6.19%
Mansfield	\$413,000	10.43%	195	41.30%
New Bedford	\$200,000	7.53%	632	19.47%
North Attleboro	\$340,500	9.84%	300	44.93%
Norton	\$334,900	6.32%	209	58.33%
Raynham	\$329,000	1.71%	171	33.59%
Rehoboth	\$375,000	10.70%	125	47.06%
Seekonk	\$285,000	2.30%	204	40.69%
Somerset	\$250,000	11.36%	241	8.56%
Swansea	\$250,000	4.17%	222	22.65%
Taunton	\$267,000	6.80%	497	51.99%
Westport	\$319,000	9.06%	181	41.41%
<b>County Total</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>	<b>6.59%</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>27.26%</b>

*\*Statistics based on single-family home sales of \$1,000 and above, excluding condominiums and foreclosure deeds  
Source: Banker & Tradesman (Jan 23, 2017), The Warren Group*



Keeping Fall River working in Fall River.

FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Free Workshop Series “Creating a Plan for Success”

The Fall River Office of Economic Development (FROED) will host the third seminar of the 2017 Free Workshop Series entitled “Creating a Plan for Success” on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 from 4:00pm to 6:30pm at the Cherry & Webb Building located at 139 South Main Street, Fall River, MA 02721.

Who needs a business plan? If you’re in business, you do! Think of a business plan as a map that helps plot the direction in which your business will grow. A business plan is necessary to obtain financing, and serves as the basis of your overall marketing plan. The old expression is true, “If you fail to plan you’re planning to fail.” In this session we’ll show you how to write a business plan that will pave the way for you to build a

successful business in Fall River.

The link to register is available on the FROED website at <http://froed.org> under the “Microloan Seminars” tab. Any questions should be directed to Michael Motta, FROED Technical Assistance Specialist at [m.motta@froed.org](mailto:m.motta@froed.org) or 508-324-2620.

We look forward to seeing you at the “Creating a Plan for Success” seminar on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 4:00pm at the Cherry & Webb Building located at 139 South Main Street, Fall River, MA 02721.



## Fall River’s Finest: Charles Quintal

Charlie Quintal is the son of Charles and Hilda Quintal and has one brother and two sisters. He has five children, nine grandchildren and currently lives in the Flint section of Fall River.

Quintal attended local Fall River schools including Letourneau School, Henry Lord Junior High School and BMC Durfee High School. Miss Fitton of Henry Lord as well as entertainer Buddy Holly were the two main forces that motivated Quintal to pursue a career in music.

In 1969, Quintal formed his own band, “Talk of the Town” after performing with the Spi-Dells. For many summers he was a regular at the famed Warwick Musical Tent. Quintal signed a contract with Columbia Records and performed with rock legends around the country.

Quintal has shared the stage with music legends such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Ricky Nelson, Fats Domino, Roy Orbison, Neil Sedaka, The Supremes and Aerosmith.

Quintal scored national hits including “Take Me As I Am” and “Baby” and recorded regional favorites “Georgia on My Mind” and “Lovely Lies.”

Quintal stays in contact with many of his contemporaries, including Gerry Granaham, who enjoyed hits in the 1950s under his own name and as Dicky Doo and the Don’ts and the Fireflies.

*(Excerpt from “Cream of the Crop—Fall River’s Best and Brightest” by John B. Cummings, Jr.)*



### Mission statement of the Fall River Office of Economic Development:

*Incorporated in 1978 as a 501(c)(4) corporation to promote the prosperity and general welfare of the citizens of Fall River through the stimulation of economic strength and expansion of new and existing business.*

For more information please  
visit our website:  
[www.froed.org](http://www.froed.org)