

# Providence City Plan Commission May 19, 2026



## AGENDA ITEM 3 ■ ABANDONMENT OF DEVINE STREET



Proposed abandonment area



View of proposed abandonment area



Aerial view of the site

### OVERVIEW

<b>PETITIONERS:</b>	1145 Main Associates LP 888 Eddy LLC et al	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b>	Abandonment of Devine Street between Mutual and Oxford Street and Oxford Street and Seymour Ave
<b>CASE NO./ PROJECT TYPE:</b>	<b>REFERRAL 3616</b> Right-of-way abandonment	<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	Recommendation of approval subject to the noted findings of fact
<b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b>	Devine Street	<b>PROJECT PLANNER:</b>	Choyon Manjrekar
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD:</b>	Lower South Providence		

**OVERVIEW**

Devine Street runs from north to south. The petitioner is requesting that the City abandon portions of Devine Street located between Mutual Street and Oxford Street and between Oxford Street and Seymour Ave.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The *City Plan Commission Handbook* Policy No. 1: “Criteria and Guidelines for Approval of Street, Highway and Rights-of-way Abandonment,” states that six standards should be met before the Commission recommends approval of an abandonment request. Below are the standards, including staff comments for each:

1. *A public interest has to be clearly demonstrated. A public interest is defined as one or more of the following: public health and safety, adequate provision of transportation, general improvement of traffic patterns and/or circulation, convenient access to properties, avoidance of a nuisance, significant economic development, preservation of a historical or cultural feature, and improvement of the general welfare of the community.*

The proposed abandonment areas run north to south. The portion between Mutual and Oxford Street is undeveloped and overgrown with vegetation and is not useful for traffic circulation or pedestrian movement. The proposed abandonment area between Oxford Street and Seymour Ave is developed and abutted on both sides by property owned by the petitioners. This area only appears to be useful for accessing property that it abuts. The DPD does not object to the abandonment as it would not have an adverse impact on the public interest.

2. *No negative impact is evident on existing land uses, future plans, zoning, safety, health or welfare of the community by the proposed abandonment.*

It is not apparent that the abandonment will negatively affect future plans for development or existing land use as the proposed abandonment area is only useful for accessing land that is owned by the abutters. No negative impact to the health and welfare of the surrounding community is expected as the street is not essential to provide access to other parts of the City.

3. *All abutting landowners agree to the proposed abandonment.*

The petitioners own the lots abutting the abandonment area.

4. *No physical or legal access will be denied to any land or property in surrounding areas by the proposed abandonment.*

Based on a site visit and plans provided, no physical or legal access will be denied as the street is only useful for providing access to lots that it abuts.

5. *No existing or future public services or facilities need to be protected, provided, or maintained within the right-of-way. An easement retention may be necessary to provide access to, maintain, or provide existing or future service or utility needs.*

It is unknown whether public services or facilities need to be protected, provided or maintained. The petitioner would need to grant any necessary easements.

6. *The proposed or intended use of the street and/or adjacent properties must be shown on a petition or plan, and such use shall be in conformance with existing zoning and Comprehensive Plan Objectives.*

A petition and plan have been provided.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the foregoing discussion, the City Plan Commission should advise the Committee on Public Works that the proposed abandonment be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The petitioner shall apply for an administrative subdivision to merge the abandoned street with respective property prior to appearing before the City Council.
2. The petitioners shall grant any necessary easements for access to property, utility access and maintenance.