



**November 22, 2010**

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD SELECTS DESMAN ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR STORRS CENTER PARKING GARAGE**

**Storrs, CT...**The Rocky Hill office of Desman Associates has been retained by the Town of Mansfield to provide planning, design, and engineering services for the Storrs Center parking garage. Funding for the garage has been obtained through a state grant.

The availability of efficient and economical parking is critical to the Storrs Center project and will be one of the first structures built to accommodate the visitors and residents in Phase 1 of Storrs Center. The garage will be built in coordination with an intermodal center that will focus on providing alternative means of transportation to Storrs Center including local, University of Connecticut, and regional bus service. The parking garage and Phase 1A are scheduled to open in the summer of 2012. Phase 1A includes 125 rental apartments and 30,000 square feet of commercial space on the north side of Dog Lane.

Desman Associates will provide architectural, engineering, and construction administration services for the parking structure and its interface with adjacent and adjoining project components including transit-related facilities for bus passengers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and car sharing.

Desman Associates is a leading national specialist in transportation improvements and the planning, design, and construction administration of parking facilities. Since its inception in 1973, it has provided public, private, and institutional clients in the United States and abroad with planning, design, and restoration services for over 5,500 parking projects. Desman currently has eight offices throughout the country including Connecticut and Boston, which comprise the New England division.

Speaking for the Town of Mansfield, Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren states, "We're pleased to announce that Desman Associates is on board for the design of the Storrs Center parking garage. They are an extremely capable and technically proficient firm, who were selected from a list of candidate firms based on their qualifications, their track record on similar

projects, and their competitive proposal. In particular, Desman’s work on projects in Connecticut in a mixed-use venue was a significant consideration for selecting them as designer of the parking garage.”

Norman Goldman, Principal at Desman states “Desman has been working with the Town, master developer LeylandAlliance, and other consultants on the Storrs Center project since 2004, providing an array of professional services during the site planning approval process. We feel especially gratified to be selected for this next phase given the quality of the competition that responded to the Town’s request for proposals. The Storrs Center design projects a vision for Storrs/Mansfield that will enhance downtown with pedestrian activity as well as residential and commercial amenities through its various development phases.”

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*Storrs Center will be a mixed-use town center and main street corridor at the crossroads of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut and the University of Connecticut. Located along Storrs Road adjacent to the University, the Town Hall, the regional high school, and the community center, Storrs Center will include a new town square across from the University’s improved fine arts center. The new town center will occupy approximately 17 acres of the overall 47.7 acre site and will include a new Town Square and a smaller Market Square across from Town Hall. The remainder of the site will be preserved primarily for open space and conservation. The town plan will knit architecture, pedestrian-oriented streets, small lanes, and public spaces into a series of small neighborhoods that will make up the new fabric of the town center. Ground floor retail and commercial uses opening onto landscaped sidewalks and intimate streets will reinforce traditional street front activity and shared community spaces and will be supported by residences above and throughout the neighborhood. Storrs Center will combine retail, restaurant, and office uses with a variety of residence types including studios, town homes, condominium apartments, and rental apartments. Structured and surface parking will be provided.*

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