

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the mayor to sign a Project Authorization Letter (PAL) and any subsequent PAL amendments or contact documents for the Downtown West commuting corridor. (City Engineer and Director of Transportation, Traffic, and Parking)

REPORT: 1514-13

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The Connecticut Department of Transportation has started a new program to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in municipalities across Connecticut called the Community Connectivity Program. New Haven's Downtown West project has been selected for funding in the first round, creating a state-of-the-art bike network across six neighborhoods west of downtown.

The \$1.2 million funding requires no match, and would fund a bike "artery" in the form of a two-way cycletrack on Edgewood Ave. In addition, the grant would cover "feeder" bicycle infrastructure to bring cyclists safely to the major Edgewood Ave east-west corridor. The grant would fund improvements such as line striping, traffic control devices (e.g delineator tubes), signal upgrades and additions, curbs, sidewalks, handicapped ramps, and paving in support of the project.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

As one of the direct routes into downtown New Haven from the western portion of the city, including the densely populated Dwight and Westville neighborhoods, Edgewood Avenue is a prime commuting corridor. The street already has sharrows for the majority of its length, from Yale Avenue in the west to its terminus at Park Street in the east, and is therefore already a major bike route through this portion of the City. Furthermore, the City's comprehensive plan, *New Haven Vision 2025*, includes as two of its recommendations

Promote a comprehensive and integrated bicycle and pedestrian network within the city by identifying and prioritizing the missing links and implementing solutions accordingly; and implement dedicated and/or separated bicycle facilities on major arterials of the city e.g., Whalley Avenue, Edgewood Avenue, MLK Boulevard, Whitney Avenue, Grand Avenue, Congress Avenue, Forbes Avenue, and Water Street.

This Order would help achieve both of these recommendations by creating a separate bicycle facility on Edgewood Avenue while also developing links to this cycletrack and further developing the city's comprehensive bicycle network.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: January 20, 2016
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director