

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: GRAND AVENUE BRIDGE OVER THE QUINNIPIAC RIVER, Authorization for Mayor to sign an Agreement and any subsequent amendments with the State Department of Transportation for the design phase of Bridge Rehabilitation utilizing Surface Transportation Program Urban Funding (City Engineer).

REPORT: 1455-06

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City Engineer has petitioned the Board of Aldermen to authorize an Agreement between the City and the Connecticut Department of Transportation ("ConnDOT") pertaining to the rehabilitation of the Grand Avenue bridge over the Quinnipiac River. In 2009 ConnDOT declared the bridge to be in fair condition and therefore the City has placed the bridge on its priority list for rehabilitation using Federal and State funds under the urban component of the Surface Transportation Program with a 10% City share. The Agreement and any subsequent agreements under this authorization would be for the professional engineering services to develop contract plans, specifications and estimates for the bridge rehabilitation project.

Grand Avenue is a primary east/west route which connects Downtown with Fair Haven and points east of the Quinnipiac River. The original bridge known as the Dragon Bridge constructed in 1896 (Fair Haven was known as "Dragon") was updated in the 1980s in keeping with the original design. The Bridge is listed on the City's Historic Resources Inventory and is located within the Quinnipiac River National Register Historic District. Improvements may include replacement of the bridge deck on the swing span, rehabilitation of structural elements of the approach spans and the swing span truss, blast cleaning and painting of structural steel elements, rehabilitation of the space drive machinery, replacement of electrical system components, repair of stone masonry on the abutments and piers, installation of scour protection measures, repair and stiffening of the existing fender system, and reconstruction of the roadway approaches to adjacent intersections.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

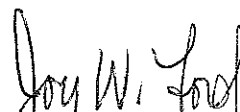
City funds of approximately \$170,000 have been identified in the Engineering Department's Capital budget. Overall cost of this design phase will be approximately \$1.7 million. The bridge has suffered closures recently due to overheating machinery and other wear problems. The City Engineer held a public informational meeting in the neighborhood on May 17, 2011 to apprise local residents of the project. The Commission notes that the project will be subject to coastal site plan review prior to initiation of construction.

ADVICE

The Commission regularly supports projects relating to improvements to deteriorating infrastructure and historic resources within the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: August 17, 2011
Roy Smith, Jr.
Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Joy W. Ford
Planner