

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ACTION

RE: DOWNTOWN BICYCLE ACCOMMODATIONS, Overall concept and short-term design plan (Director, Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking).

REPORT: 1436-10

ACTION: Approval

Submission: 3 sheets by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. 06/09/09 and Report excerpts with recommendations, conceptual plans and implementation schedule 03/09.

BACKGROUND

The Director of the City's Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking has submitted for the Commission's review plans for accommodations for bicycles in the Downtown area with an extension along Chapel Street and Edgewood Avenue to Westville. The Plan gives recommendations in the short, medium and long term for accommodating bicycles and pedestrians in relation to vehicular traffic to create a safer more enjoyable relationship.

In addition, design plans are submitted for a short-term project of sharrows (shared lanes although bikes may not use a full lane in Connecticut) and wayfinding signs to key destinations. Shared lane markings are now an approved traffic control device and the project recently gained the approval of the State Traffic Commission. Special emphasis is placed on wayfinding to Union Station and the project is in part funded through a transit enhancement grant from the Federal Transit Administration. The overall project cost is estimated at \$115,000 - \$125,000.

Other short-term recommendations include bike lanes and bike boxes at major intersections. The medium term recommendations continue the core ideals by expanding the bike network, creating dedicated protected space for bicycling, and developing a more enjoyable pedestrian environment by slowing down motor vehicles and establishing a predictable system of pedestrian signals. The long term recommendations fill in additional gaps in the cycling and pedestrian networks the two main goals of creating physically separated on street cycle tracks on State and Grove Streets and for incorporating the Farmington Greenway into the plan.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Much of the implementation of the recommendations is performed in markings, signs, and painting of lanes and symbols on the roadways. Some of the long term implementation involves creation of physical medians. The Commission concurs that as stated in the plan, "the proposed network will create a backbone for future local and regional linkages, further transforming downtown New Haven into a first class bicycling and walking town". It further supports connection to existing trail systems, such as the Farmington Canal Greenway.

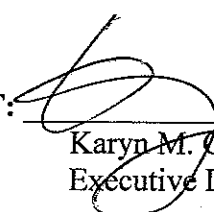
The Commission supports this green initiative to calm traffic and remove some vehicles from the roadways by promoting New Haven as a bicycle friendly environment without extraordinary expense.

ACTION

The City Plan Commission endorses the submitted Plans.

ADOPTED: January 20, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director

