

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR TO SIGN A PROJECT AUTHORIZATION LETTER (PAL) FOR THE WATER STREET CYCLE TRACK PROJECT UTILIZING LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LOTICIP) FUNDING

Submitted by: Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer

REPORT: 1611-06

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

The proposed action would authorize the Mayor to sign a Project Authorization Letter (PAL) for the Water Street Cycle Track Project for approximately \$373,000 from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP).

The proposed Water Street Cycle Track project will provide a crucial link between two other multi-use paths currently in construction: Farmington Canal Phase IV and Downtown Crossing Phase 2. Connecting these two paths from Union Avenue / State Street to Olive Street will facilitate safe, off-road bicycle access between Union Station, Long Wharf, Orange Street, and all the towns that the Farmington Canal trail services in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. The proposed project will construct a separated, 12-foot wide, approximately 1000-foot long bi-directional cycle track between Union Avenue/State Street and Olive Street, matching the two multi-use paths currently in construction. Additional work included will address traffic signal upgrades and improved pedestrian lighting.

Under LOTICIP, the City is responsible for creating the design, while LOTICIP covers 100% of the construction costs. The City has engaged with stakeholders on the project, including the public and the State of Connecticut.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with Title I, Article XIII, Section 2(A) of the New Haven Code of Ordinances states, **"Every Ordinance or Resolution of the Board of Alders relating to the location and use of any street, bridge, boulevard, esplanade, square, park, playground, playfield, aviation field, parking space, public building, [grant funding], the facilities or terminals of any public utility, or the establishment or change in the boundaries of or regulations concerning zoning, shall be at once referred to the City Planning Commission and final action shall not be taken on any such Ordinance or Resolution until the commission shall have reported thereon, provided that the Board of Alders may establish by ordinance a period of not less than sixty (60) Days within which the commission shall file its report with the City Clerk and if no report is filed within such period the approval of the commission shall be presumed."** Accordingly, the Board of Alders seeks guidance regarding the proposed amendment.

The Board of Alder seeks guidance as to:

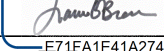
- Whether the proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- The City's Comprehensive Plan states, as a goal, to **"Enhance bicycle/pedestrian and transit networks."**

ADVICE

The proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan because it:

- Increases bicycle connectivity, fills in gaps in the existing network
- Promotes outdoor recreation
- Improves bicycle access to the Downtown and Long Wharf neighborhoods

ADOPTED: June 15, 2022
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: _____

Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department