

**NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT**

**RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the Mayor to accept funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and sign any associated state agreements including Project Authorization Letters, agreements with contractors and other documents that may be desirable or necessary, including any subsequent amendments to agreements for the rehabilitation of the Grand Avenue Bridge over Quinnipiac River – Bridge No. 03810. (City Engineer)

**REPORT: 1554-13**

**ADVICE:** Approval

**BACKGROUND**

The 120-year-old Grand Avenue Bridge, which serves as a critical regional arterial over the Quinnipiac River, requires major rehabilitation. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) recently conducted an in-depth inspection of the bridge and reported various mechanical and electrical systems in serious condition. In addition to full replacement of the mechanical and electrical equipment on the bridge, the Engineering Department has also identified the need to replace the bridge's original approach spans from 1898, repair the deck, rehabilitate the center truss, and blast clean and paint the entire structure. The City has applied for funding under the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Program and received Federal Earmark funding and Surface Transportation Program funding for the rehabilitation of the bridge. The City Engineer is requesting that the Board of Alders authorize the Mayor to accept funding from CTDOT through a Project Authorization Letter for the construction phase of the Grand Avenue Bridge rehabilitation project.

Contingent upon funding by CTDOT, the Grand Avenue Bridge rehabilitation project will enter the bidding phase in the first half of 2019. Construction is expected to begin in late 2019 and be completed by 2021. The bridge will be closed for the majority of the construction period. The City has held several public outreach sessions regarding the proposed bridge rehabilitation to date, including a meeting on January 29, 2019.

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

The Commission acknowledges that the rehabilitation of the Grand Avenue Bridge is critical to the safety of the public utilizing the bridge. Funding from CTDOT will not only help to maintain the safety of the bridge, it will also help the City achieve New Haven Vision 2025 goals to ensure adequate maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure and limit further deterioration.

**ADVICE**

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

**ADOPTED:** February 20, 2019  
Edward Mattison  
Chair

**ATTEST:** MPL  
Michael Piscitelli, AICP  
Interim Economic Development Administrator