

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS Modifying the Public Right-of-Way at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Front Street. (City Engineer)

REPORT: 1554-14

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 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, including the full replacement of mechanical and electrical equipment, rehabilitation of the center truss, replacement of approach spans, and the cleaning and painting of the entire structure.

In addition to structural and mechanical improvements to the Grand Avenue Bridge, the City Engineer is requesting that the Board of Alders authorize associated modifications to the public right-of-way that include: (1) the extension of the sidewalk on the southwestern side of the bridge to a minimum width of 10 feet to accommodate a shared use path, effectively requiring an approximately 3-foot expansion of the public right-of-way in perpetuity and (2) expansion of the public right-of-way by 15 feet until July 1, 2022, to facilitate construction activities.

At its November 2018 and January 2019 meetings, the Parks Commission voted in favor of the permanent right-of-way expansion of slightly over three (3) feet and the temporary 15-foot right-of-way expansion.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed modifications of the public right-of-way are compatible with New Haven Vision 2025 goals to promote multi-modal transportation on major arterials of the city and transit and bike/pedestrian connectivity throughout the city.

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