

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the mayor to apply for, accept, and execute all documents related to the State of Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant Funds and any subsequent amendments, grants, or contract documents to construct sidewalks and bus transit improvements along Ella T. Grasso Boulevard between Frank Street and Legion Avenue. (City Engineer)

REPORT: 1537-05

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The State of Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant program (administered by the CT Department of Transportation) funds projects that support bicyclists and pedestrians in centers of communities. In New Haven, there are certain key stretches of road that remain disconnected from the sidewalk network. One of the areas disconnected from the pedestrian network is the Ella T. Grasso (State Route 10) corridor. New Haven's proposed "Ella T. Grasso Boulevard Pedestrian Connectivity Project" will help complete the pedestrian connectivity network at the westernmost area of the Hill Neighborhood.

The City of New Haven proposes the construction of a standard five-foot pedestrian sidewalk along the east side of Ella Grasso Boulevard – beginning at the existing sidewalk terminus at the crosswalk at the New Haven Adult Education and extending northward to the existing sidewalk terminus at the north end of the Evergreen Cemetery property (south of Legion Avenue). The project would total 3,300 linear feet.

The City also proposes installing and improving bus transit infrastructure at the intersection of the Boulevard and Boston Post Road/Columbus Avenue with a new bus shelter.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This project will improve pedestrian access along the east side of Ella Grasso Boulevard (State Route 10) by constructing a concrete sidewalk where there is already a well-worn dirt path, and providing pedestrian connections from the Hill neighborhood to the New Haven Adult Education center, various businesses, the University of New Haven, and the Allintown section of West Haven. The new sidewalk would provide a number of benefits including:

- improved access to the jobs cluster area along Printer's Lane at 620 Ella Grasso Boulevard
- improved walking connections to downtown along Columbus Avenue as well as connections to recreational facilities at West River Memorial Park and Defenders' Square Park at Columbus Avenue and Congress Avenue.
- improved safety of pedestrian along Route 10 by reducing the need to cross the wide and relatively high-speed thoroughfare
- a safer and more direct walkway to parks and recreation will help to address the long-term and chronic health issues affecting the health of City residents.

The goals of the project to be funded by the Community Connectivity grant align with many of the recommendations of the City's comprehensive plan, including increased connectivity, promotion of a comprehensive pedestrian network by identifying missing links, and improved sidewalk quality.

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: October 18, 2017
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:

Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director