

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF A \$125,000 GRANT APPLICATION TO SUPPORT TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (Matthew Nemerson, Economic Development Administrator)

REPORT: 1499-15

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The resolution before the Board of Alders would authorize filing of a grant application by the City with the State of Connecticut for an amount of \$125,000 to be used for the continued planning and implementation for the TOD Pilot Program, and acceptance of the Grant in said amount (or in any lesser or greater amount up to \$250,000 awarded by the State). If the City is awarded and accepts the Grant the Resolution further authorizes Mayor Toni N. Harp to act as the City's representative in the execution and delivery of an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut, in such form as may be reasonably required by the State in order to effectuate the Grant and in the execution and delivery of such other documentation as may be required by the State in connection therewith, and further to execute and deliver such amendments and revisions to such documentation as may hereafter be reasonably required by the State, which documentation may include an indemnification of the State (and/or appropriate State agency or agencies) by the City.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Economic Development is seeking support for two projects that need to be addressed more aggressively in the coming years.

The first is a planning study for the southern section of Downtown and Wooster Square. This area is characterized by surface parking and underused properties within a strong neighborhood fabric. With a housing pipeline of over 1,500 new units, now is the time to develop a more comprehensive community plan to bolster the entire neighborhood and connect it better to Union Station and State Street Station (both within walking distance). The second project is a comprehensive transportation demand management program for the Downtown Crossing district. Working with major employers (many of whom are already doing extensive work in this area), the intent is to further the overall goals for Downtown Crossing by reducing single-occupant trips to work and increasing bike/ped/transit mode splits. This is an important and timely effort given that Phase 1 is now under construction and Phase 2 is launching later this year.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the proposed Grant and Agreement in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: November 19, 2014
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director