

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to apply to be part of the State of Connecticut's Fully Autonomous Vehicle Testing Pilot Program.

REPORT: 1564-03

ADVICE: Approve

BACKGROUND

The Mayor seeks authority to apply in participate in the Fully Autonomous Vehicle Testing Pilot Program overseen by the State of CT's Office of Management and Budget, and, thus be authorized to sign any associated documents or agreements with contractors, amendments, indemnification provisions, which may have terms longer than one year, that the Mayor deems necessary or desirable. This request is in joint effort with the Department of Transportation, Traffic, & Parking, the New Haven Parking Authority, Yale New Haven Health Systems, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., and Yale University. The parties above have agreed that participation in the program will test fully autonomous vehicles in the right of way on four possible predetermined routes, and the Department of Transportation, Traffic, & Parking hopes to augment the right of way in accordance to the pilot. According to the parties, the participation in the program is anticipated to contribute to a safer, less congested, and more sustainable transit system for the City.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The participation in the Fully Autonomous Vehicle Testing Pilot Program may comply with the City's Comprehension Plan:

New Haven Vision 2025, Section I-10:

"Promote safe, efficient, reliable, and accessible public transit system throughout the city to connect residents to jobs, services, and their community"

"Adopt more progressive, multi-modal and context-based design principles."

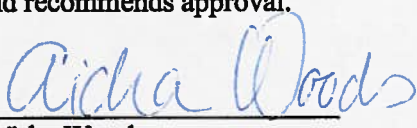
"Promote a more sustainable transportation system within the city and the region."

It is valuable to acknowledge that planning studies have indicated that the lack of adequate transportation choices in one of the biggest barriers to economic development in a city. Additionally, community surveys have shown that expanding public transportation opportunities and safety is of top priority for New Haven residents. Both ideas mentioned in the City's Comprehension Plan (New Haven Vision 2025, Section V-12).

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: January 22, 2020
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Aicha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department