

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the mayor to accept funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant and acquire property interests required for the execution of the Mill River Trail North project.

Submitted by: Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer, City of New Haven

REPORT: 1664-07

ADVICE: Approve

BACKGROUND

Since at least the 2004 New Haven Greenways plan, the City has been planning an off-road trail network on the Mill River from Orange St. to Grand Ave. and beyond. This has come to be known as the Mill River Trail.

The New Haven Mill River Trail North project will connect all of the existing Mill River Trail segments north of Grand Avenue into a continuous trail stretching back to Orange St. behind Wilbur Cross High School. The trail is proposed to include a tunnel under Willow St. to eliminate vehicular conflicts, not only benefitting trail users but also Wilbur Cross students and coaches accessing the athletic facilities of Blake Field. In addition, the project seeks to complete the segment behind 370 James St, including acquiring and constructing in a defunct railroad right-of-way.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This grant proposal is in alignment with:

- The City's 2004 New Haven Greenways plan, as well as current efforts to update and finalize construction of the trails in that plan.
- The City's adopted comprehensive plan (Vision 2025), particularly the "Greenways and Trails" section which explicitly mention completing the sections of trails near the Mill River.
- The City's updated comprehensive plan (Vision 2034) which is in development, and in draft form mentions adopting and completing a five-year pedestrian and bike trails network.
- The State of Connecticut's Department of Transportation as the grantor.

Therefore, authorization of this grant application aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the State of Connecticut's goals.

ADVICE

Recommend approval.

ADOPTED: April 16, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department