

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the Mayor to accept funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation as part of the Community Connectivity Grant Program and acquire property interests required for the execution of the Wintergreen Area Pedestrian Improvements Project

Submitted by: Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer

REPORT: **1648-11**

ADVICE: **Approve**

BACKGROUND

The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has offered a \$669,600 grant to the City of New Haven for the Wintergreen Area Pedestrian Improvements Project as part of the Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant Program. The aim of the project is to improve pedestrian connectivity in the Wintergreen area by installing sidewalk along Wintergreen Avenue, Springside Dr, and Wilmot Rd. These sidewalks will connect Common Ground High School, Brennan-Rodgers School, Brookside, Rockview, and Westville Manor to the City's sidewalk network (see attached plans). These improvements have been advocated for by students and residents for years, and are eagerly awaited.

Due to the narrow width of the Wintergreen Avenue bridge over Wintergreen Brook, a separate pedestrian bridge is needed to provide safe passage for pedestrians. This requires acquisition of property from the Congregation B'nai Jacob cemetery on Wintergreen Avenue. The land in question is at the extreme corner of the property (see attached map) and is currently wooded. Work on the acquisition has already started and details will be provided at the committee hearing.

The grant covers the entire eligible construction cost of the project. The City is undertaking the design of the project, and also the property acquisition. Design is anticipated to be complete later in 2024.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The City of New Haven Comprehensive Plan **New Haven Vision 2025** calls:

“To build a comprehensive and integrated bicycle and pedestrian network within the city by identifying and prioritizing the missing links and implementing solutions accordingly.”
(Sec. xxvii)

Perusing funding opportunities to improve pedestrian networks complies with the Comprehensive Plan goal of facilitating enhanced connections to transit, bike, and pedestrian walkways.

Any activity within the Inland Wetlands Regulated Area (delineated wetlands plus a 50-foot buffer) will require an Inland Wetlands permit from the City Plan Commission.

ADVICE

Authorization of this grant and acquisition of property interests aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the State of Connecticut's goals.

ADOPTED: March 20, 2024
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department