ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City of New Haven
200 Orange Street, Rm 503
New Haven, CT 06510
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Justin Elicker
Mayor

Giovanni Zinn, P.E.
City Engineer

March 17, 2025

Honorable Tyisha Walker Myers
President - Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

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 LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE ORANGE ST SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT*

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker Myers:

The City of New Haven proposes to improve the safety of Orange St by constructing safety measures such as bumpouts, islands, speed tables, and pavement treatments to provide inducement for drivers to reduce their speed. This will significantly change the character of Orange St, emphasizing slow speed driving, active transportation, and most centrally pedestrian safety. The project will cover Orange St from Humphrey St to Cold Spring/Mitchell Drive.

Led by our Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department, Orange St was the subject of an extensive public outreach and study effort to determine the needs and utilization of the various modes of transportation on Orange St. The need to provide a better, safer experience for pedestrians in particular was a very common concern, and provides a central guide on which the proposed design is based. We particularly appreciate the guidance and input from the three affected alders.

Unfortunately, the roadway is too narrow to accommodate all the existing uses along with fully separated and protected active transportation infrastructure. There was much passionate testimony regarding the tradeoffs of accommodating such a facility, as I'm sure the alders will remember well. We believe proposed design places the pedestrian as the most vulnerable user in the most protected spot as they cross the roadway. Furthermore, it reduces the crashes among all modes of transportation while crossing, as is the most common mode of crash. Finally, the design features are intended to reduce vehicle speed, enhancing safety for all users.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203-946-8105.

Respectfully submitted,

Giovanni Zinn, PE
City Engineer