



NEW HAVEN
CITY PLAN DEPARTMENT

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September 5, 2024

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

Dear President Walker-Myers:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the attached resolution authorizing the application for and execution of a grant agreement between the City of New Haven and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) under the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP). This \$2 million grant request, supplemented by \$400,000 in local and federal funds, is aimed at addressing the longstanding barriers created by transportation infrastructure, particularly Interstate 91, which has physically divided neighborhoods and restricted access to essential resources, opportunities, and services.

The proposed I-91 Neighborhood Reconnection Initiative aims to restore community connectivity by exploring strategies to reclaim land, reroute traffic, and create public spaces. Specifically, the initiative will focus on reconnecting neighborhoods from I-91 Exits 3-6 and transforming underutilized areas beneath highways into vibrant public spaces that enhance pedestrian and bicycle access. Additionally, we will explore potential housing development opportunities in the Mill River and River Street areas to promote economic growth and increase residential density.

This effort aligns with the goals of the RCP Program, which seeks to redress the harms caused by transportation infrastructure, particularly in disadvantaged communities. By breaking down the barriers imposed by I-91, this initiative will provide improved access to jobs, healthcare, education, recreation, and other vital services, fostering social and economic equity for the residents of New Haven.

I urge your favorable review and action on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Laura E. Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department