

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: [ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS](#) authorizing the Mayor to sign a Project Authorization Letter (“PAL”) and any subsequent amendments (“PAL Amendments”) with the Connecticut Department of Transportation for Project #173-0542 concerning the installation and revision of Traffic Control Signals on Route 1 (Forbes Avenue).

Submitted by: Director of Department of Transportation Traffic & Parking

REPORT: 1682-12

ADVICE: Final action already taken by BOA

BACKGROUND:

The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation is responsible for the administration of the Construction project noted above. The improvements include the replacement of existing traffic control signal equipment with new equipment to meet current DOT standards at the following locations: U.S. Route 1 (Forbes Avenue) at Fulton Terrace & Fulton Street and U.S. Route 1 (Forbes Avenue) at Stiles Street and Wheeler Street. Once the project is completed, the City of New Haven will be responsible for the maintenance, repairs, rehabilitation and snow and ice removal of the emergency vehicle pre-emption system (EVPS) equipment and sidewalk ramps constructed within the project limits.

Funding for this project is provided by the Fix It First Roadway Program and consists of One Hundred Percent (100%) State funds. No City funds are being utilized for this project.

A copy of the Project Authorization Letter (PAL) letter is attached for your reference.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

[Vision 2034](#), [New Haven’s Comprehensive Plan](#), includes the following goals and strategies:

Move Together

Goal 2: Make the transportation system fully accessible to people with disabilities.

- Strategy 2.4: Improve roadway crossing facilities across the City to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.

Goal 3: Make it easier and safer for people to walk, bike, and use mobility devices and public transportation.

- Strategy 3.1: Prioritize pedestrian, bicycle, and transit enhancements, in historically low-income communities, communities of color, and areas where a high share of households don't have access to a car.
- Strategy 3.3: Improve and expand the City's sidewalk network and pedestrian crossing facilities.

Goal 5: Improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

- Strategy 5.1: Improve signal timing and coordination along major corridors to encourage the smooth flow of traffic at a safe rate of speed.
- Strategy 5.2: Collect and analyze traffic flow data and areas of congestion to advance safety for all road users.

Goal 7: Make transportation infrastructure and services more resilient and sustainable.

- Strategy 7.1: Continue improvements to infrastructure such as local bridges to make that infrastructure more resilient and more bicycle friendly.

Approval of this project would bring signal infrastructure to a State of Good Repair and upgrade traffic signal to current CTDOT standards. This would also provide new technology to the intersection via the Emergency Vehicle Preemption System (EVPS) which would increase response times to emergencies by first responders. Additionally, this project provides co-benefits to vulnerable road users like pedestrians with mobility impairments by providing upgraded crosswalks, and ramps with detectable warning pads and pedestrian signals heads with countdown timers.

It is recommended that audible push buttons be included in the design and construction of this project so as to ensure a fully updated and comprehensive system that is supportive and inclusive of all pedestrian user types especially those with visual, hearing, and other mobility impairments. Based on the drafted PAL, it was not clear outside of signal upgrades and sidewalk ramp treatments if push buttons, and countdown timers are included in the project upgrades. Overall, this project is supported by several goals within the City of New Haven's Plan of Conservation and Development as outlined above.

ADVICE

The Commission noted that final action has already been taken by BOA.

ADOPTED: May 20, 2026
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Laura Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department