

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 Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program for the execution of the Orange St safety improvements project.

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

REPORT: 1664-08

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

The City is seeking funding from the Connecticut DOT via the LOTCIP program in order to make bike/ped and overall traffic safety improvements along Orange Street between Humphrey Street and Mitchell Street / Cold Spring Street. This section of Orange Street was the first in New Haven with delineated bike lanes in both directions. With a recent repaving project, Orange Street was the subject of a city study to determine the active transportation needs and parking utilization of Orange Street in an effort to improve the infrastructure for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists via traffic calming measures. Through an extensive community process, various alternatives were considered. The current plan, which was presented to the community in 2024, features a European-style slow street roadway treatment which is intended to dramatically reduce through traffic, slow travel speeds and allow for a share environment for motorists and cyclists. On street parking is generally preserved, however curb extensions and adjustments to transit stops, will further enhance intent of a slow-travel speed environment.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This grant proposal is in partial alignment with the City's adopted comprehensive plan (Vision 2025), particularly the guiding principle "Enhance public safety, particularly for the city's most vulnerable users" and recommendation to "Encourage the appropriate placement of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including dedicated bike racks, bike lanes, bump-outs/refuge islands, and signage within ongoing and proposed street improvements." This grant proposal aligns with the State of Connecticut, as LOTCIP was established and is funded by the State of Connecticut.

The current design prioritizes pedestrian safety as the most vulnerable user in the most protected spot as they cross the roadway and the design also aims to reduce vehicle speed in order to enhance safety for all users. City staff have acknowledged comments, particularly related to the proposed infrastructure for cyclists and the adequacy of on-street parking. City staff will continue providing education about a shared road environment and will monitor performance and safety following implementation.

ADVICE

Approve.

ADOPTED: April 16, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

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