

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 for safety improvements around the New Haven Green

Submitted by: Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer

REPORT: 1668-09

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This order will authorize the City to accept a \$4,000,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation to the City of New Haven for the New Haven Green Area Roadways Safety Improvements Project on behalf of the United States Department of Transportation as part of the Congressionally Directed Spending program.

Specifically, the work funding by this grant will create raised crossings and intersections around the New Haven Green and restore Temple St. between Elm St. and Chapel St. into a pedestrian-friendly shared street with roadway material distinct and in-character for the Green to denote its distinction from other roadways and the presence of pedestrians on the shared space.

HISTORY

The New Haven Green, a central three-block park, has served as the City's focal point since its founding in 1638. The Green is surrounded by historic churches and has been the site of many significant events, serving as a historic public resource for centuries. A feature of the Green has been its ease of use and access by pedestrians, and this grant would improve access and pedestrian connection around, to, and from the Green to downtown New Haven.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This Vision 2025 Comprehensive Plan recommended an update of the New Haven Green Map and notes "*The New Haven Green remains the focal point of Downtown and a signature region-wide asset.*" This work also aligns with the draft Vision 2034, New Haven's soon-to-be-adopted 10-year comprehensive plan. Specifically, this work aligns with the vision of the Great Places to Live section by "promoting sustainability through pedestrian-friendly design strategy." It also aligns with the strategies to "Ensure City-sponsored events are fully accessible" – as making the Green safer and easier for pedestrians to access and by making Temple St. safer and more inviting to those not in motor vehicles will also make it easier for everyone to access, including those with disabilities – the strategy to "Continue to implement public infrastructure improvements in neighborhood commercial districts and corridors," and the strategy to "Improve roadway crossing facilities across the City to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities," among others. It also aligns with themes identified from community members, including "Make streets safer with measures such as improved traffic flow, enhanced signals, and better pedestrian safety."

ADVICE

Approve.

ADOPTED: June 18, 2025
Ernest Pagan
Chair

ATTEST:

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Laura E. Brown

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Laura E Brown

Executive Director, City Plan Department