



Justin Elicker
Mayor

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City of New Haven
200 Orange Street, Rm 503
New Haven, CT 06510
www.newhavenct.gov



Giovanni Zinn, P.E.
City Engineer

July 5, 2022

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

Re: *Order authorizing the Mayor to accept the Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities Grant (BRIC) from the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and to accept funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) to build a 10-foot stormwater Micro-Tunnel from Union Avenue to the New Haven Harbor to address inland flooding the Downtown, Hill and Long Wharf neighborhoods*

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker Myers:

After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the City received CDBG Disaster Relief funding to study and develop concept plans for mitigating the effects of stormwater events on the Downtown, Hill, and Long Wharf areas that constitute the largest stormwater sewershed in the City and contains areas of flooding such as Union Avenue and the former Rt 34 corridor. As part of this work, the City conducted an extensive data gathering and stormwater modeling study, and proposed a solution based on both green stormwater infrastructure and increased capacity to drain stormwater under the railyard and to the harbor. The green stormwater infrastructure was constructed through an award-winning partnership with URI and Emerge, which not only constructed almost 200 bioswales in this area but provided much-needed employment and job training for ex-offenders.

To increase the capacity of drainage under the railyard from downtown to the harbor, the City proposes using microtunneling techniques to create a 10' diameter pipe from the corner of West Water St and Union Avenue to a new outfall along the harbor just north of the Canal Dock Boathouse. This mirrors the path of an existing set of twin pipes, and would simply increase the rate at which water can drain from downtown to the harbor. In the future, the proposed 10' diameter pipe would also connect to the pump station to be constructed as part of the Army Corps of Engineers project, greatly increasing the effective capacity of the pipe and allowing drainage of low-lying areas during very high water events.

In addition, the City proposes constructing a living shoreline along Long Wharf Park, building on recommendations from a study conducted by the City Plan Department on strategies to protect Long Wharf from storm events and sea level rise. The Board of Alders has already approved funding from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to fund this work, and the project is in the permitting phase.



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The Federal Emergency Management Agency has made funding available through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (FEMA BRIC) program to states for projects that create resiliency and protect communities and infrastructure from future storm events. The City of New Haven is a potential subgrantee in this competitive project, and scope would include the construction of both the 10' pipe under the railyard to the harbor and the living shoreline installation along Long Wharf Park. The proposed project cost including these two elements is \$35,849,886. The proposed project is split into \$25.1M Federal and \$10.8M Local. The local match would consist of three sources: \$3.9M from the CT DEEP Living Shorelines grant, \$5.9M from CT DOT Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP), and \$1M from City bonds.

While it is uncertain as to whether the City will receive these funds from the competitive FEMA BRIC program, this project represents a vital part of the infrastructure to protect the City's business centers and transportation corridors from the effects of extreme weather and Climate Change. Using a green-first strategy allows us to minimize the size of the traditional infrastructure required, and create a more resilient City.

Therefore, I write to respectfully request the Honorable Board of Alders authorize the Mayor to accept as set forth in the proposed Order.

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

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c: Rebecca Bombero, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Laura Brown, Executive Director, City Plan
Dawn Henning, Engineering Department
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