

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept grant funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation to operate on-demand micro-transit services as a pilot program in partnership with the New Haven Parking Authority, Greater New Haven Transit District and Via Transportation Inc.

Submitted by: New Haven Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking

REPORT: 1631-08

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven is requesting authorization to apply for and accept funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to operate Micro-transit services as a Pilot program.

The grant would fund implementation of on-demand micro-transit operations – in partnership with the New Haven Parking Authority, Greater New Haven Transit District and Via Transportation Inc.- as part of a pilot program. This pilot will complement existing CTTransit service while aligning with the mission and vision of the City of New Haven to provide safe, efficient, equitable and sustainable multi-modal transportation to improve quality of life and promotes economic vitality in the city. Micro-transit is defined as a transportation solution that is accessible by multi-passenger vehicles using a digital software application to offer on-demand service in response to individual or aggregate passenger demand. Users would book a trip online and could be picked up by an existing bus on a bus route, a paratransit vehicle, or another type of dedicated vehicle.

The pilot program will aim to provide equitable and sustainable on-demand micro-transit service by improving and expanding service, customer experience and by decreasing waiting times. Additionally, the service will improve connections to fixed route services, provide first-mile, last-mile connections, and increase access to essential services such as health care, employment, education etc. and jobs. Finally, the program will improve equity by expanding sustainable transportation options for disadvantaged populations, and address service needs of people with few mobility options.

Special focus will be placed on reaching residents in majority “priority neighborhoods” - consistent with the goals of the Board approved Safe Routes for All (SRFA) Active Transportation Plan- with majority low-income, Black, and/or Latino residents that have historically faced a number of challenges in relation to access to sustainable transportation options. Overall, emphasis will also be on ensuring fares remain reasonable and in-line with existing fares charged. The program will also take into consideration public outreach, customer experience, and marketing plans to promote and continuously improve the use of the new service.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This grant proposal is aligned with the City comprehensive plan from the standpoint of:

- Promote a more sustainable transportation system within the city and the region

- Improve mobility for people of all ages and abilities.
- Promote direct street connectivity to key employment and business centers to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

ADVICE

Approval--Authorization of this grant application aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

ADOPTED: May 17, 2023
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

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

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