



**Town Green
District**
Downtown New Haven

September 1, 2020

Honorable President Walker -Meyers
Board of Alders
165 Church Street
New Haven CT 06510

CC: Alder Ellen Cupo, Alder Abby Roth, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, and Alder Eli Sabin

Dear President Walker-Meyers,

The Town Green District is excited to present you and the Board of Alders a proposal for the painting of several creative crosswalks along Chapel Street as well as the enhancement of the railroad overpass walls with a bright new color scheme using paint and vinyl decals, corner screens, and lighting. We write seeking your approval of the overall aesthetic design since these art transformations will take place in the public right of way along the Chapel Street railroad overpass and the intersections on both sides (Chapel and State & Chapel and Union St).

These improvements are part of a larger effort that we call -- "Intersection to Connection." The goal is to transform the railroad overpass at Chapel and State Street and the adjacent intersection at Chapel and Union Street into a neighborhood connection point between all five neighborhoods whose paths meet at this thoroughfare in New Haven. The crosswalk design incorporates the names of neighborhoods with the destination points embedded in the design, reading "Downtown, Wooster Square, The Hill, Long Wharf, and East Rock." The crosswalk and vinyl decal design also showcases cherry blossoms and elm leaves to celebrate some of the cherished natural features of our city.

Since April 2019, Town Green District staff and design firm Atelier Cue based out of Fair Haven have worked with City Engineering, Traffic and Parking, City Plan, and Cultural Affairs on this project. The ideas have been sourced from the community through outreach efforts to the surrounding residents, businesses, pedestrians, transit riders, and other frequent users of Chapel Street. We first asked community members about their concerns and vision for the corridor, and we followed up with several public planning sessions to invite input and feedback on initial design concepts. This community process engaged hundreds of people and resulted in the drafting of five physical improvements ranging from adding sidewalk planters, creative crosswalks, wayfinding signage, public art installed on the overpass walls, and increased overpass lighting.

If approved, the crosswalk work could then begin right away, while the public art enhancements on the state-owned overpass would progress to the mayoral office for recommendation to State Department of Transportation after more refined technical consultation with City Engineering. We would like to install these crosswalks in late September/early October which requires the board's sign off on the design. We will work closely with TT&P to minimize the traffic impacts and assure a safe working environment for our volunteers. If approved the Board and then the State, the painting of the railroad overpass walls and installation of the vinyl decorative decals, corner screens, and lighting is planned for summer/fall 2021.

Sincerely,

Win Davis