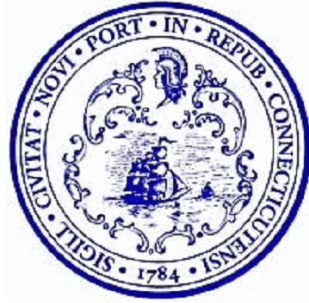


City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 3, 2025

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chamber

City Services and Environmental Policy

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The City Services and Environmental Policy Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, to hold the following workshop and hear and act on the following items:

-- WORKSHOP WITH THE NEW HAVEN CLIMATE MOVEMENT AND CITY STAFF TO REVIEW REQUESTS IN THE TRANSPORTATION TRANSFORMATION RESOLUTION WITH A FOCUS ON THE PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFE ROUTES FOR ALL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

[LM-2025-0108](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A MULTI-YEAR LETTER AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AGREEMENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CRCOG) AND VEORIDE INC. TO IMPLEMENT SHARED MICROMOBILITY SERVICES IN NEW HAVEN

[LM-2025-0075](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A LONG-TERM LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HAVEN PARKING AUTHORITY FOR THE UNDER AIR RIGHTS GARAGE PARKING FACILITY

[LM-2025-0118](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING THROUGH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT’S INNOVATION CLUSTER PROGRAM

Per Order: Hon. Anna M. Festa, Chair
Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of Legislative Services located at City Hall, 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

Minutes

Alder Anna M. Festa, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:07 p.m. Present were Alders Anna M. Festa, Chair, Kampton Singh, Vice-chair, Amy Marx, Kiana Flores, and Caroline Tanbee Smith.

-- WORKSHOP WITH THE NEW HAVEN CLIMATE MOVEMENT AND CITY STAFF TO REVIEW REQUESTS IN THE TRANSPORTATION TRANSFORMATION RESOLUTION WITH A FOCUS ON THE PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFE ROUTES FOR ALL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

- Suprya Sarkar, New Haven Climate Movement;
- Meredith Polk, New Haven Climate Movement;
- Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, 353 Summit Street;
- Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer;
- Sandeep Aysola, Director of Transportation, Traffic, and Parking; and
- Steven Winter, Executive Director of Climate and Sustainability

Ms. Sarkar and Ms. Polk reviewed the documents the New Haven Climate Movement submitted and their mission to move forward to have Transportation Transformation Resolution passed by the Board of Alders. The documents submitted included a petition and a sign-on letter in support of the Transportation Transformation Resolution. These handouts are on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Director Aysola and Administrator Piscitelli spoke about the need to have additional assistance to compile data and make plans for how they are going to meet the criteria for the Safe Routes for All Citywide Active Transportation Plan.

Director Winter discussed how an important part of reducing the carbon footprint is having multiple modes of public transportation, such as e-scooters, that people can access and use based on their needs in ways they feel safe. Reviewed how decisions at the federal level will greatly affect both funding and how quickly the city can move forward.

Engineer Zinn reviewed how the original data on the federal level dates to 2000 based on 1999 is still used today as the benchmark. Reiterated how federal funding being pulled back will greatly affect how the city is able to move forward.

In response to Alder Festa, Administrator Piscitelli spoke about how there are discussions happening with the state to improve public transportation and access to buses and trains.

Engineer Zinn reviewed how the transportation app provides real-time monitoring of the state buses and makes it easier to take public transportation in New Haven.

Director Winter confirmed how he is happy to be the point person for the New Haven Climate Movement but recommended Rep. Lemar due to his knowledge of the state public transportation system including costs and funding. Discussed how there is a movement at the state level to provide free bus passes for high school students.

Director Aysola reviewed how they are working with Yale and CT Transit to find synergies to improve public transportation access for New Haven residents. Confirmed they could use additional staffing but understand the complications and need to meet other city staffing needs.

Engineer Zinn, Director Aysola, Director Winter, and Administrator Piscitelli reviewed how funding allotted in this year's budget is balanced and includes funding to support goals of improving public transportation and reducing New Haven's carbon footprint.

Director Winter discussed how funding in this year's budget includes funding to provide bicycles and provide training for second graders regarding how to ride bicycles safely in the city.

Chris Schweitzer, 361 Elm Street, and Suprya Sarkar, New Haven Climate Movement spoke about how the feedback from city staff was useful and appreciated. Discussed the need to develop a plan.

In response to Alder Marx, Ms. Sarkar spoke about the need to provide free bus rides to make buses more accessible, work with CT Transit, and provide updated bus shelters.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Ms. Sarkar discussed the importance of educating residents via word of mouth, social media, etc. Mr. Schweitzer discussed how they are working to help educate people on how to take a bus, for example, teaching how to pay a bus fare, take bicycles on the bus, etc., as these are barriers for people regarding using buses. Discussed the importance of increasing outreach to increase public transportation usage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

Alder Singh, through the Chair, requested New Haven Climate Movement to collaborate with city staff on how to reach city goals.

1. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A MULTI YEAR LETTER AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AGREEMENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CRCOG) AND VEORIDE INC. TO IMPLEMENT SHARED MICROMOBILITY SERVICES IN NEW HAVEN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

- Steve Winter, Executive Director Office of Climate and Sustainability, 459 Dixwell Avenue;
- Sandeep Aysola, Director of Transportation, Traffic & Parking; and
- Jeff Hoover, VEO, Director of Government Partnerships

Presenters reviewed how the VEO e-scooter program would work. Discussed how there is no charge for VEO which allows them to offer subsidized rides for people receiving assistance. Provided a map of where the 250 initial e-scooters would be provided in and around downtown New Haven. Pricing will allow for membership options and will allow qualifying people up to one free ride a day, which will allow them enough time to drive from downtown to Stop-n-Shop for free. Areas will be geofenced both regarding parking the e-scooters, no-ride zones, such as Yale campus and sidewalks, and slow zones, such as the New Haven Green. The presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Aysola reviewed how they have identified the corral parking zones, but they have not been finalized.

Mr. Hoover reviewed how the e-scooters will talk to riders when they enter no-ride and slow ride zones, so they understand what is happening and will not drop the e-scooter because they think it is no longer working.

Confirmed the app will notify the riders if the e-scooters are not returned to a corral zone or driven in a no-ride zone. If the riders leave their e-scooters, the app will continue to send them push notifications that they are being charged until the e-scooter is returned to the proper location.

Director Winter discussed how VEO would not pay the city fees for the spaces because it allows for greater success for micromobility services operators, like VEO, and allows them to offer reduced pricing for residents that qualify.

In response to Alder Marx, Director Aysola reviewed how VEO can program the e-scooters, so they do not operate on city sidewalks and confirmed they will not operate on city sidewalks. Director Aysola and Mr. Hoover confirmed that children under the age of 18 years old cannot use the e-scooters, as the user agreement requires people to be 18 years old or older.

Alder Marx, through the chair, requested data from other cities, such as Harvard, regarding accidents, ride usage, urban usage, etc. before the full Board votes on this item.

Mr. Hoover discussed how VEO had close to 10 million rides last year with 99.99% of rides ending with no incidences. Could not speak to accidents that may not have been reported, but it does include even minor incidences.

Mr. Hoover confirmed their demographics match the area where they are located. Discussed how most of their riders live in a household that has less than \$50,000 in household income. Reviewed how they are in Syracuse, New York, which has Syracuse University but 60% of their riders are not university students. Spoke about how they put buffer zones around

schools, so the e-scooters cannot be used around public schools.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Aysola confirmed riders will not be able to use the e-scooters on city sidewalks or Yale campus.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Mr. Hoover discussed how they need one ride per vehicle per day to stay profitable. Discussed how VEO wants people to replace personal vehicles and UBER and LYFT rides, with the later being their greatest competitors. Reviewed how they request data from riders and have determined they replace thousands of car rides.

Confirmed that theft is a cost of doing business which VEO bares, so they try to design the e-scooters to be unusable to thieves. Discussed how they have door tags notifying residents when one is located at a home advising them to return it to a designated corral, or they will need to notify the police. Spoke about issues VEO faces with staying profitable and viable.

In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Hoover discussed how they compete well with e-bikes, as e-scooters do not require people to pedal, which attracts more users, and the way they increase profitable is by finding riders that would not normally see themselves using a scooter. Reviewed how the sit-on e-scooters are attracting more users that have disabilities.

Director Aysola discussed how they are not trying to take away from the e-bikes but provide micromobility users with more options. Spoke about how e-bikes are better for longer trips, while e-scooters are used typically shorter trips.

Director Winter discussed how Rochester, NY; NYC, and Newark, NJ, have had good experience with the e-scooters. Spoke about how the state is working on a bill that would increase the weight limit for e-scooters, which would allow the seated e-scooter.

In response to Alder Singh, Director Aysola spoke about how although it will not be one-to-one, e-scooters will decrease the number of vehicles on the roads. Mr. Hoover reviewed how data would be collected in New Haven. Discussed how they have had one or two accidents in NYC and reviewed how NYC handles those accidents by taking the e-scooter.

In response to Alder Marx, Director Winter reviewed how they have replaced the MOU with a contract.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Mr. Hoover discussed how they build their own vehicles, which allows them to build better, stronger vehicles for their business. One of the benefits is that parts are easily obtainable, so they can repair rather than scraping the e-scooters.

Director Aysola reviewed the procurement process, how three companies applied, and how VEO was selected by completing the process.

Director Winter discussed how the pricing models across the companies were similar, but VEO's e-scooters provided a much better ride experience regarding the device and

technology.

Mr. Hoover reviewed how they have already hired a local manager, who is full time. Discussed how they do not hire gig workers, as they cannot provide specific requests and need the employer/employee relationship. They set staffing needs based on the number of rides, not number of vehicles. They expect to have 3-4 full time employees and several part time employees.

In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Hoover talked about how personal e-scooters are a real competition for VEO and do not have to adhere to the speed and geofencing requirements that applies to VEO e-scooters. VEO e-scooters are branded the same and have teal lighting at night with an identifiable number and VEO contact number on each e-scooter.

The e-scooters' batteries are charged in VEO's warehouse and replaced in e-scooters with less than 30% battery-life remaining.

In response to Alder Marx, Mr. Hoover confirmed he will send the warehouse location to Director Winter to distribute to the committee members and reviewed their staffing needs. There is not a firm answer to staffing needs, as the program has not been implemented yet.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Mr. Hoover discussed options they are considering for encouraging people to park the e-scooters correctly and upright. Reviewed how they are working on AI photo technology that would not allow riders to end their trips without confirming the e-scooter has been properly parked.

Alder Marx, through the chair, requested additional information from Hartford including possible taking a trip to Hartford to see the e-scooters in use. Director Winter confirmed they believe e-scooters will be reducing congestion by moving people from vehicles to e-scooters. Director Aysola confirmed they could engage with the community (community management teams) regarding locations and community needs.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Winter discussed how they want the e-scooter program to be up and running by May, so New Haven has a full season to vet the program to determine how best to move forward.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 1, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. Alder Kampton Singh moved to amend item # 1 by substitution, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All the alders spoke in favor of the amendment, and motion to amend was unanimously approved. All the alders spoke in favor of the item, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed, as amended.

2. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A LONG TERM LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HAVEN PARKING AUTHORITY FOR THE UNDER AIR RIGHTS GARAGE PARKING

FACILITY.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenter: Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, 353 Summit Street

Administrator Piscitelli reviewed how this renews the license agreement with New Haven Parking Authority for the Under Air Rights Garage Parking Facility for five years with the option to extend for another five years. This would allow this garage to continue to be used by the Parking Authority and maintained. The initial license fee will be \$60,000 per year which may increase on an annual basis in accordance with any percentage increase in the parking rates payable to New Haven Parking Authority during the preceding year.

In response to Alder Festa, Administrator Piscitelli confirmed that if they choose to extend the license agreement, this would be administrative only, if this request is approved, as it includes the ability to extend for an additional 5 years.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 2, seconded by Alder Amy Marx. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

3. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING THROUGH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S INNOVATION CLUSTER PROGRAM.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

- Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, 353 Summit Street,
- Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer, 95 Soundview Avenue, and
- Dean Mack, Deputy Director Economic Development, 492 Whitney Avenue.

Administrator Piscitelli, Engineer Zinn, and Deputy Director Mack presented this item. The New Haven region has a competitive advantage in the fields of bioscience and quantum technologies. This presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

New Haven's region's project teams includes: QuantumCT, Yale University, UCONN, University of New Haven, Quinnipiac University, Cambridge Innovation Center, Ancora L&G, Winstanley Enterprises, Cure Rare Disease, BioCT, and the City of New Haven.

This proposed cluster, Quantum & Bioscience Cluster, will be a globally competitive innovation district building on the state's life science infrastructure, to solidify the State of Connecticut's leadership in bioscience and foster growth in quantum technologies.

The proposed cluster will focus on longstanding priorities by completing the New Haven Downtown Crossing Project and adhering to inclusive growth, connecting residents to

opportunities in emerging job sectors. This will include investments in workforce and cultural equity as well as new public infrastructure of promenades, bike and pedestrian paths, and streetscape enhancements, aligned with other projects including Union Square and the State Street Redesign.

The Innovation Value Chain Working Group is focused on long-term scientific advancements in key industries, led by bio and life science and quantum computing. QuantumCT will help solidify Yale and UCONN as a leader in quantum science with space for world class open-source computing power, test beds, and space for new start-ups to mature as growing business.

The infrastructure initiatives are designed to build on existing efforts like 101 College Street, State Street, and Union Square to create an inclusive neighborhood that is welcoming to all. Infrastructure work will likely be constructed in tandem with future development projects. For this first application, the City is looking to extend the Church Street Promenade via an "Arc Bridge" Orange Street via Rev. Martin Luther King Boulevard.

In response to Alder Marx, Engineer Zinn discussed how they will be able to use federal portion of these funds (not the state portion), specifically for the Church Street promenade, which they are including in this project, to help meet the matching requirement.

In response to Alder Festa, Engineer Zinn confirmed through Yale, New Haven has an extensive quantum computing community that is international known.

Administrator Piscitelli reviewed partnerships in New Haven in this field and how this funding if awarded would be divided among the city and partners.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Administrator Piscitelli spoke of the importance partnerships and moving forward. Engineer Zinn reviewed how infrastructure takes time, and it is important to plan for the future.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Piscitelli reviewed how if the city is not selected for the grant, city staff would come back with revised plans. Confirmed they need to have the application submitted by April 15th. Also, reviewed how they will need to come back to the Board of Alders, if the funding is different than expected.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Engineer Zinn confirmed no maintenance and that they expected less than one million, around \$500,000 for design.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 3 to be discharged, seconded by Alder Amy Marx. All the Alders spoke in favor of discharging the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the motion passed.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee

Smith. The motion was unanimously approved at 10:01 p.m.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Amy Marx. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 10:35 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here:
<https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II