

# SOUND VIEW IMPROVEMENTS AND ROUTE 156 ON-ROAD BIKE PATH

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the Sound View Improvements and Route 156 On-Road Bike Path Project?

The conceptual project is designed to enhance the Sound View District of Old Lyme for the enjoyment of residents, businesses and visitors. It includes the construction of a park, public bathrooms, lighting and plantings, reconfigured public parking, and a bike path from the Baldwin Bridge east on Route 156 to Hartford Avenue.

### Why is the Town of Old Lyme doing this project?

A study and community input on Sound View have recommended that needed area improvements as well as connecting the natural assets of our beach area to the rest of Old Lyme will enhance the community, increase local patronage, encourage tourism, and improve commercial opportunities in Sound View and Old Lyme.

### How will the project be funded?

The Town has been awarded a Federal Transportation grant because the plan includes an on-road bike path. The grant will be overseen by Conn-DOT and covers 80% of costs. The conceptual enhancements, unanimously approved for grant funding by our Regional Planning Agency, provide increased access to Sound View including, non-motorized circulation to commercial, residential and recreational opportunities in Town. The town is responsible for the remaining 20% of costs and the costs associated with applying and meeting the grant requirements.

### What do we get?

Permanent flush toilet restroom facilities with ADA - Retain the most amount of parking possible – A destination location for public events to become a multi-season asset to the Town - Reconfigure parking with safer access - Kiosk parking meters with flexible rate adjustments while eliminating the need and expense of parking attendants - and 156 on-road bike path from the Baldwin Bridge to Hartford Avenue.

## Conceptual Park Design



SOUND VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN - PARK ENLARGEMENT

91 HARTFORD AVENUE  
OLD LYME, CT

## What is the difference between the concept and the actual plan?

It was the conceptual plan that allowed us to apply for the grant which makes the project financially feasible. Now that we are approved for the grant, we are obliged to follow the ConnDOT process to select an engineering firm to develop the actual plans. We interviewed 6 highly qualified firms and have selected a firm that has demonstrated creativity and has the requisite experience to address the sensitive environmental concerns of Sound View. The selected firm will be responsible for the project specifications, and will work with the community in developing actual plan designs for review and feedback.

## Does the public have opportunity to comment on the project?

Public comment has been solicited and encouraged and will continue to be a valuable part of the success of this project. To date, four public information meetings have been held on the conceptual project. There will be additional public meetings, including one-on-one sessions, to solicit comments and review the project progress.

## What is the project timeline and cost?

There are two phases to the overall project.

### **Phase 1:** Plan and Design Specifications.

During the third quarter of 2013, the town, consultant engineer and the ConnDOT will agree on the Scope of Work for the Plan and Design and negotiate costs for this design phase. There will be a public information meeting outlining the scope and cost of this plan and design phase. After which a town meeting will convene to appropriate the funds for this phase. During phase 1 the final project design will be developed, additional public forums regarding the actual design, landscaping, lighting, will be held to discuss what the park and bike path will include and look like. The result of phase 1 will be the final design and construction costs. If approved at town meeting, we hope to have final plans by Spring 2014.

**Phase 2:** Project Construction. With the Plan and Design completed in phase 1 the probable construction costs will be clear. Additional public information meetings will be held. After which a town meeting will convene to appropriate the funds for phase 2.

**Our grant covers 80% of cost for both Phase 1 - Plan and Design Specifications and Phase 2: Project Construction.**

### **Summary of Typical ConnDOT Project Process**

ConnDOT reviews and approves all required items

1. Project Initiation
  - Town submits grant application to the Regional Planning Agency (RPA) - RPA and CT DOT review
2. Municipal/State Design Agreement
3. Consultant Selection
4. Municipal/Designer Consultant Agreement – **Current Stage**
5. Preliminary Design (35% complete)
  - Town required to hold public information meeting at completion of preliminary design
6. Design Approval
  - After Public Information Meeting, Town requests to move forward with Final Design of DOT
7. Semi-Final Design (75% complete)
8. Permitting
9. Right Of Way Acquisition (if needed)
10. Utility Coordination
11. Final Design (100% Complete)
12. Opinion of Probable Construction Costs
13. Allocation of Construction Costs needs approval at Town Meeting
14. Municipal/State Construction Agreement
15. Inspector Selection - Same Process as Designer Selection
16. Municipal/Inspector Agreement - Same Process as Municipal/Designer Agreement
17. Construction Obligation
18. Contract Award

## Can I receive regular updates about the project?

Yes, please visit the Town Of Old Lyme website at:

[http://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/Pages/OldLymeCT\\_projects/currentprojects](http://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/Pages/OldLymeCT_projects/currentprojects) for updates.

Additionally, send questions and comments to [maryjonosal@gmail.com](mailto:maryjonosal@gmail.com).