

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SOUND VIEW BIKE PATH AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

What is the Sound View On-Road Bike Path and Improvements 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 and reconfigured public parking. The project is eligible for a federal transportation grant because the plan includes an on-road bike path from the Baldwin Bridge bike path east on Route 156 and south on Hartford Avenue.

Why is the Town of Old Lyme doing this project?

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

What does the grant pay-for?

The grant covers up to 80% of costs. The town is responsible for the remaining 20% of costs and the costs associated with applying and meeting the grant requirements.

Where is the grant funding coming from?

The grant funding is available through a Federal Transportation program. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) administers the grant, and has design and construction oversight.

How much will the construction cost?

The cost of the project will be determined once the project scope and plans have been negotiated with a consultant engineer and the ConnDOT.

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. Three public information meetings were held in 2012 on the conceptual project. There will be additional meetings to review the project scope and proposed project renderings with residents. Feedback will be shared with our consultants.

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 a firm to develop the actual plans. Selecting a firm that has demonstrated creativity and has the requisite experience to address the sensitive environmental concerns of Sound View is our current task. The selected firm will then develop project specifications, survey/permit and provide actual plan designs for review.

What are the most important concerns in selecting a consultant engineering firm?

The Selection Panel will evaluate the firm's qualifications and experience on similar projects. Included in this evaluation is the level of experience the firm has in working in environmentally sensitive areas which are subject to flooding; their approach to the permitting process; estimated timelines and cost management, creativity and innovation... just to name a few.

What is the project timeline?

There will be two phases to the overall project. The first is the Plan and Design Specifications phase. During the third quarter of 2013, the town will select a consultant engineer, agree on the Scope of Work for the Plan and Design, negotiate costs, hold informational meeting(s) *and convene a town meeting to appropriate the funds for this phase*. If approved at town meeting, we hope to have final plans by the Spring of 2014. This will be the initiate the second phase. Along with the Plan and Design Specifications, the engineers will provide an Opinion of Probable Construction Costs. There will be additional presentations to the Town, and ultimately, *allocation for Construction Costs will need to be approved at a Town Meeting*.

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 for updates.

Additionally, send questions and concerns to maryjonosal@gmail.com.

Typical ConnDOT Project Process

1. Project Initiation
 - Regional Planning Agency (RPA) solicits member towns for funding applications
 - Towns submit application to RPA
 - RPA reviews all received applications and ranks then sends to DOT for review
 - DOT reviews applications and determines which ones to fund
 - DOT holds Concept Meeting with Municipality
2. Municipal/State Design Agreement
3. Consultant Selection
 - Town Prepares legal notice for review and approval
 - Town establishes Selection Panel and DOT reviews and approves
 - Town develops Qualifications ratings forms and DOT reviews and approves
 - Town reviews qualifications and develops short list for interview, DOT reviews and approves
 - Town develops Interview questions and interview rating form and DOT reviews and approves
 - Town interviews and selects consultant and requests approval, DOT review and approves
4. Municipal/Designer Agreement
 - Assignment meeting
 - Designer prepares Scope of Work (SOW) for approval by Town and DOT
 - Town and Designer prepare man-hour proposals
 - Town and Designer negotiate final fee for design for approval, DOT review and approves
 - Allocation of Funds needs approval at Town Meeting
 - DOT reviews draft agreement and authorizes execution
 - DOT sends authorization to begin Preliminary Design
5. Preliminary Design (35% complete)
 - Town required to hold public information meeting at completion of preliminary design
 - Town may require Designer to hold additional Public Meetings
6. Design Approval
 - After Public Information Meeting, Town requests to move forward with Final Design of DOT
 - DOT prepares Design Approval and upon receipt, authorizes the Town to begin final design
7. Semi-Final Design (75% complete)
8. Permitting
9. Right Of Way Acquisition
10. Utility Coordination
11. Final Design (100% Complete)
12. Opinion of Probably Constructions 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