

## The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for State Project #104-172

The Town Of Old Lyme held a Public Informational Meeting for Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) State Project #104-172, "The Route 156 Bike Way and Sound View Improvements Project," on June 30, 2015. The project scope at the inception was to utilize a federal transportation grant to make improvements in Sound View, notably Hartford Avenue, to improve public safety of the sidewalks, incorporate a bike way from I-95 to Sound View, provide parking safety enhancements, provide public restrooms in the beach area, and create a recreational green space for public enjoyment of the area. The project committee scheduled the meeting in late June as a convenience to enable summer residents to attend.

The meeting was advertised per Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements. Two announcements were placed in *The Day* and approximately 380 postcards were sent to local businesses, residents and officials. Approximately 60 people were in attendance including State Senator Paul Formica, who publicly offered his assistance, and State Representative Devin Carney. The First Selectwoman of Old Lyme, Bonnie Reemsnyder, introduced the project and noted that the project was at the 30% design milestone. A full 68 page PowerPoint presentation of the project was made by *BSC Group* Project Engineering Consultant Lead Kurt Prochorena. Kurt covered the Project Components, including the Design Process, the schedule, the "Opinion Of Probable Cost," and the current direction of the committee in light of all the technical and design information that had been assembled. The presentation materials were made available to the public. Public comments and questions were solicited and addressed by the consultant and or the committee members. The consensus of the committee and DOT liaison, David Head of *VHB Engineering*, was that there was support for the project.

The Board of Selectmen solicited and accepted feedback (attachment A) concerning the project through July 15<sup>th</sup> as required by DOT. The following is a summary of the comments and a general response from the project committee on the areas of concern.

- There were twelve letters of support received. Seven from Sound View residents, four from residents outside Sound View, and one from the owner of a business located on the proposed bike way. The letters of support confirmed the project goals of making a positive investment in Sound View through infrastructure developments, aesthetic improvements, public safety enhancements, and the promotion of alternative transportation, primarily pedestrian and bicycle access.
- There were four letters neutral in stance or which supported the project with reservations or asked questions about the project. Two letters from the owners of a business in Sound View, one from a Sound View resident and one from a resident outside Sound View.
- Opposed or questioning the project were four letters from representatives of three businesses in Sound View. Additional letters of opposition were received from a business landlord and one from a town resident outside of Sound View.
- There was one question regarding parking by an anonymous author.

In summary, six areas of concern were cited: cost, parking, restrooms, sewers, bike safety, and blight.

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### Committee Response To Areas of Concern

**COST:** The original project cost estimate was based on the conceptual design work and on anticipated site conditions. After approval of design and specifications funding was obtained, further required study and field testing revealed site conditions and significant challenges to construction. The consultant engineer's current cost of construction, the "Opinion Of Probable Cost," for the project master plan i.e., the bike way, streetscape improvements, restrooms, reconfigured parking and green space, is estimated at \$1,465,000 including an addition of 25% required by DOT for incidentals and inflation. However, in accordance with the Agreement for the transportation enhancement grant, the DOT will fund \$532,000 and the town \$133,000 for a total construction budget of \$665,000. The DOT recently informed the committee that it will not significantly increase the grant funding, and that they consider some of the project costs ancillary to transportation enhancement.

The committee presented their recommendation to deal with the funding gap, at the public information meeting. The recommendation is to maximize the grant, up to 80% cost sharing, by phasing-in the project. The construction budget of \$665,000 will be used for an aesthetically pleasing streetscape, bike way and safety improvements including: six foot sidewalks, parking safety enhancements, ADA accessible cross walks, and improved signage. The balance of the master plan will be phased-in as funds and sewers become available. The committee will continue to look for cost savings, will value engineer to maximize the grant and will seek alternative funding for the restrooms.

**PARKING:** The committee and the design team remain dedicated to providing as much public parking as possible in accordance with primary design objectives which included improved public safety, establishment of a bike way, an attractive streetscape with safe ADA accessible sidewalks and crosswalks, public restrooms, reconfigured parking and a greenspace. The design team proposed a reconfigured attractive parking lot plan which maximizes parking and provides for enhanced public safety while providing for a green space for public recreation. Currently, there are 353 available parking spaces in Sound View between public, commercial and private parking lots. Upon project completion 303 public spaces will remain, or less than a 15% reduction. None of these changes reduce private parking lot permitted spaces or the approved site plan parking spaces for commercial business. Of note, the committee proposed a full parking analysis as part of the project. However, the DOT did not support financing such a study because no new information would be gained from this study. There will never be enough capacity on popular summer weekends/holidays particularly when nearby State beaches reach capacity and the overflow seeks Sound View as an alternative. However, our Regional Council of Government and the majority of the respondents support the public safety improvements and transportation enhancements. Additionally, the Department Of Energy and Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs evaluated the project for parking and beach access and supported and agreed that the project plan supports public access to Long Island Sound. The off-set is increased bike and pedestrian traffic in the Sound View area.

**RESTROOMS:** Permanent public restrooms to replace the port-o-lets in Sound View have been a priority for residents and some area businesses for many years. Although a permanent restroom was part of the master plan for the project, the DOT determined that the restroom is ancillary to the transportation grant and limited the cost sharing to 10% of the project construction. The design team proposed an attractive, low maintenance, ADA accessible restroom which conforms to zoning requirements. However, during the design process, technical and cost issues became apparent which made the

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restroom construction portion of the project not feasible at this time. Primarily, before permanent restrooms can be constructed, a sanitary sewer line is required which may be years away. Secondly, the cost of the restroom is expensive as further study revealed that the construction site has extremely poor soil conditions requiring additional costly engineering for proper stabilization of the facility.

Several people suggested that the restroom should be the top priority of the project. However, because the 80% grant is focused on transportation enhancements and funding for restrooms is considered ancillary to the project, the committee will seek alternative funding sources to construct a restroom. In addition, a possible alternative to the port-o-lets suggested by a business owner is being discussed as a temporary solution.

**SEWERS:** Plans for sewers in the Sound View area are under development with possible construction in October 2018. The opportunity for a bike way and to improve Sound View will not be in conflict with the sewer project. Construction and access to sewers can occur without significant displacement of new sidewalks using new construction techniques. Additionally contractors are required to rebuild infrastructure, roads, and sidewalks to pre-existing conditions. Therefore the recommendation is to proceed with the project.

**BIKE SAFETY:** State Highway Route 156 is already designated as part of the intra state bike way by the DOT. Additionally, Route 156 currently accommodates a number of cyclists. The DOT has plans to provide signage and striping to alert drivers and promote awareness. The on-road bike way areas along 156 where shoulders are narrow and cyclists must share the road are few. Nevertheless, the DOT will make accommodations when they improve the Black Hall River Bridge. Hartford Avenue will be signed and the vehicle speed may be reduced. Cycling is becoming more popular particularly on Route 156. The town is taking a proactive approach to accommodate the increase in cyclists and make it safer.

**BLIGHT:** The prospect of better infrastructure for the Sound View area has prompted purchase of some dilapidated properties. This project provides for an improved streetscape, safer and wider sidewalks for pedestrians and a bike way for cyclists which is expected to encourage property owners to make improvements and investments in the Sound View area.

### Conclusion of the Committee

The committee has held numerous public out-reach sessions and conducted over 40 public meetings in which the concerns of business owners and residents were heard, given weight and taken in to consideration and or addressed. The opportunity to bring substantive improvements to Sound View has elicited great interest in the community. Therefore, the Committee fully supports going forward at this time with the Sound View improvements to maximize the 80% grant opportunity, and as additional funding and technical obstacles can be overcome, continue with improvements to complete master plan.

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
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**Attachment A**

**The Town Of Old Lyme, CT  
Community Feedback from the June 30, 2015 Public Informational  
Meeting  
For Connecticut Department of Transportation State Project #104-172**

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Dear Bonnie,

This is a request to put a hold on the use of the funding for the Old Lyme bike path grant. When the project was in the planning phase, the grant was to be designated for much needed lavatories in the Soundview area. Now this has been postponed until sewers are installed. To recap the new plan, a street scape is to be given Hartford Avenue, only to be torn up when the sewers come through. Then it will need to be repaired. I believe that the money Old Lyme will receive at this time for the street scape will cost the tax payers more in the long run, when the sewers are put in and the work has to be redone.

Additionally, I am also concerned that the street scape will take even more essential parking spaces away from business owners and the public. This past Sunday, cars were parking along 156, and the people were walking to Soundview along this busy road. This is a public beach that has been legally recognized as such; the town's elimination of more parking spaces is seen as an effort to take away public access to the beach area. If anything, more parking needs to be added on town-owned property, such as the parcel next to the police station on 156. A much needed parking study is long overdue, and should be done before any additional parking is taken away.

I am also concerned about the public safety aspect of this elimination of parking and the anticipated wave of new bikers on Rt. 156. It is a narrow lane which is also currently used by joggers and walkers. I feel this issue needs to be addressed, not only because out of town cyclists who are unfamiliar with the numerous side roads that intersect with 156 in the beach area, but also beach traffic and the influx of walkers due to insufficient parking could create a dangerous mix. This could lead to a tragic accident.

In closing, I believe that it would be prudent to reassess the safety and financial aspects of this part of the project before proceeding. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Frank Maratta

7-15-15

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
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To Whom It May Concern:

In light of the recent July-30th town meeting regarding State Project 104-172 , the short-sightedness of the Board of Selectmen and its various Committees became very apparent. In attendance at that meeting were all but 1 of the business owners on the 2 blocks of Hartford Avenue in question as well as most of the majority property owners on the same blocks. Yet still, the Board continues to brow beat residents into agreeing with what they think will help Soundview thrive. Meanwhile, those residents and business owners who live and work on the 2 blocks in question consistently have voiced what they know will make the street thrive and those ideals have largely been ignored. Ironically, the Board and its Committees routinely avoids or disregards the input of business owners and property owners at Soundview and instead imposes their own notions or those of folks that live off of Hartford Avenue. The cliquey nature of various circles doesn't help either, but one would hope that elected officials would rise above and do what is logical. Clinging to a vision and using the grant money in any way fashionable is almost irresponsible when it is at the loss of other pressing issues that need addressing in the same neighborhoods. Consider the following: § Using money just to use it is not wise, especially since it is only partially reimbursed. The town would need to still spend hundreds of thousands on this project that is largely cosmetic and tangential to solving any of the real problems the neighborhood faces like abandoned buildings and infrastructure that is long overdue for upgrades. § The "something is better than nothing" mentality will only lead us to reinvent the wheel in subsequent years and to spend other monies redundantly. § Parking: parking has been systematically reduced over years now and enforcement of the new parking arrangement is lousy at best. A further reduction in parking is counterintuitive to a thriving beach experience (from a business perspective or not). § Cosmetically dressing up Hartford Avenue is like putting lipstick on a pig. Until upgrades to the infrastructure are completed and the Town Hall relaxes some of its zoning practices (albeit temporarily or at least to the extent of allowing exceptions), you will never empower the owners to beautify and develop the properties and their community. Stamped concrete, new sidewalks, lanterns, and Arbor Vitae will only allow people to stroll and bike pass the abandoned buildings on Hartford Avenue. § Sewers: sewers are coming. It is only a matter of when and in what capacity. So why not put all of our eggs in that basket and focus on getting it right in a few years. Spending money to keep up with the Jones (i.e. Madison) or just because the grant is there is so foolish. There is always money to be gotten in future years. I look forward to the outcome of this latest chapter in Soundview's revitalization and would invite any Committee member or Board of Selectman member to come discuss the future of Hartford Avenue with myself or my family who have skin in the game as well as livelihoods here actually on Hartford Avenue.

Sincerely,

Evan Rowe  
860.816.2378  
69 Hartford Avenue  
65 Hartford Avenue; Owner/Operator of E. Rowe Holdings, LLC dba "Wafflebar

7-15-15

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
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Dear Selectmen,

I am writing in regards to the proposed bike path on Rt. 156. I have been a year round resident of Sound View for 15 years. I have 2 children in our terrific school system here. I also have been employed by The Pavilion for 20 summers. I have been looking at this project from all three view points. The most troubling to me is the promotion of use on Rt. 156. While signage will be provided and only 25% is "share the road", that 25% is the most used, most populated area of the state road. That area is where the businesses and all of the beach communities are and is heavily trafficked. Cars are constantly entering and exiting the road. It is quite dangerous currently, and promoting additional use would further the hazards. Please consider the additional risks that would be incurred on Rt. 156 when making your decision to proceed.

Best Regards,  
Stephanie Livesey

7-14-15: From co-owner of Lenny's On The Beach

Sent from my Android device

Fwd: Lenny Corto

These are my concerns to the soundview improvement committee that i would like addressed and reviewed by conndot and the developers and engineers.

1. You said you have worked tirelessly on this project and have explored every single option and have left no stone unturned. Then how come there was never once an option, second look or an alternate plan that had the option or different configuration of more parking spaces? It seems as so one of the goals of this project is to reduce parking and access, otherwise that would have been explored.
2. How can you repaint the road again for a 3rd time without repaving. Its unlike anything iv ever seen and it will look even worse in the future.
3. You said that parking is only congested a few times a summer. So far i have personally counted the town lot being at capacity and closed 17 times and its only half way through summer. Seems like more than a handful of times. I would like the board to make the parking data available to everyone and show how many times the town lot has been at capacity in 2014 and 2015.

These are very real safety and business concerns from a concerned business owner who fears going out of business after this project is completed...without the park, greenspace and bathrooms.

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Dear First Selectwoman,

As you mentioned in the meeting on June 30, I am emailing you with questions and concerns regarding the Sound View Improvement Project. I have outlined some questions and concerns below and would greatly appreciate your time and consideration.

1. Two of the four major deliverables, to add public bathrooms and make aesthetic improvements by providing a green space are not being implemented as promised. Considering the definition of a Tourist is: "a day-tripper or out-of-towner; a person who visits another location other than his own home" and the definition of Tourism is: "the commercial organization and operation of vacations and visits to places of interest, including the business of providing hotels, restaurants, information, transportation and other services to tourists", how will this proposed project, in which the only deliverables being implemented are a bike path and reconfiguring of the road, encourage tourism (Please see tourists in attached Photo #7) and improve business opportunities on Sound View as promised and quoted in the proposed plan?
2. Considering the definitions above, how did the study and community input explain that connecting natural assets of the beach area to the rest of the town of Old Lyme by constructing an internal bike bath will encourage tourism and improve business opportunities?
3. Considering this project is being funded through a Transportation Grant, why is there no local public transportation or mass transit included in this plan? Mass transportation is blocked on every road that has access to Sound View Beach, public transportation in general in Old Lyme does not exist, and the proposed plan further limits transportation access by reducing public parking by a total of 47%.
4. Again, two of the four major deliverables, to add public bathrooms and make aesthetic improvements by providing a green space (which, to point out, will be added directly to TWO existing green space picnic areas that accommodate more than 60 patrons at a time- please see attached Photos #1-2) included in the scope of this project are not being delivered. Therefore, why is Hartford Avenue parking being reconfigured again? How will 'reconfigured parking', which equates to a 47% reduction in public parking spaces, increase access to Sound View Beach and encourage tourism and business opportunities for Sound View and Old Lyme?
4. Two years ago, it was presented to the public that the diagonal parking was considered a safer option instead of horizontal for Hartford Avenue. Now, the proposed reconfiguration will go back to parallel / horizontal parking- and yet another reduction in public parking spaces, for a total of 47% reduction in public spaces. Where is the documented proof that this parallel parking is safe when it was considered not safe 2 years ago?
5. If the roads are not being repaved, how will the new configuration of Hartford Avenue be redesigned and painted so that it is safe and clear to motorists, pedestrians and cyclists? (The configuration as it currently exists is confusing, unsafe, and by no means 'aesthetically pleasing'. Please see attached photos # 3-6.)
6. Without major road improvements, (road width expansion and repaving of roads) and allowing bikes to use the existing roads by simply adding a bike path to the current traffic and pedestrian foot traffic, how can the town ensure safety?

Again, thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter. I appreciate the depth of thought that is necessary to carefully evaluate a project such as this and would be very thankful for your examination. As a small, family-owned business on Hartford Avenue and Sound View Beach, this proposed project has the potential for significant detrimental affects on the public having safe and easy access to Hartford Avenue and Sound View Beach, therefore inimical results for our business and all other small business in this commercial zone.

Respectfully,

Melissa Corto  
Co-Owner, General Manager  
Lenny's on the Beach

July 13, 2015

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

Joann and Frank Lishing  
75 Swan Ave  
Old Lyme, CT 06371  
860-434-5911  
jlishing@live.com

Bonnie Reemsnyder, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman  
Mary Jo Nosal, Selectwoman  
Skip Sibley, Selectman

Old Lyme Town Hall, Old Lyme CT 06371 Dear Selectmen,

We are writing this in response to the public meeting held on June 30, 2015 regarding the Rt 156 and Sound View Bike Path and Improvements. We are in favor of this project and we would like the Town to proceed forward with the plan as presented on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We heard some of the complaints presented at the meeting, specifically lack of parking if the beautification process continues. Since the beautification process will be ongoing during the summer. We can assure you that there is no lack of parking except for those days that are especially nice or are very busy. These days are Town parking places. By losing these few places, it will ensure that the private business owners' parking lots will be filled! Many of these businesses rely on their business goals.

Frank and I would like to see the beautification of Sound View begin as soon as possible. We can see that this beautification process will create a safer environment.

Please contact us if you wish us to explain or comment further on this exciting project!

Warm regards,

Joanne and Frank Lishing

From: Anna Reiter Mon, Jul 13, 2015 4:14:19 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Sound View Park/Bike Path support  
To: Bonnie Reemsnyder

Madam First Selectwoman,  
I would just like to voice my support of the Sound View Park and Bike Path. I am a full-time resident of Old Lyme and I would love to see many people, whether residents or visitors, using this road for recreation and anything we can do to keep them safe and our drive home safe. We are trying to make the Sound View/Hartford Ave area a nicer place to be. Wider sidewalks, parking planning and a Park will only make it better.

Thank you for your efforts with this project!  
Anna Reiter

Jul 13, 2015

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
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Dear Selectwomen Reemsnyder and Nosal and Selectman Sibley —

Please lend your unwavering support to the Soundview Park and Bikeway Project and — if there is to be a choice between the two, support the Bikeway project.

Old Lyme is a beautiful town that would benefit from the kind of green, active, and family oriented leisure and commercial traffic that the Bikeway would bring. The town and its businesses would see additional income, there would be increased opportunities for reasonable commercial endeavors to support such visitors, and it would also provide local residents with a safe path on which to recreate and commute. All of this would lead to better personal health and health of the community. My family and I would very much like to see this Bikeway become a reality. It would make it possible for us all to safely travel along the shoreline between town and Soundview — something we do on occasion and with fear in our hearts as we pedal along busy 156 — particularly in the summer. Kids being able to bike to school, parks and rec, and/or the library would be wonderful. I would like to be able to bike to the bank, postoffice, market area, and the Flo Gris, Old Lyme Inn, etc.. It would be a joy!!

Re Soundview Beach — My family and I have been very happy with the turn that Soundview has taken in recent years. While I am a bit more interested in the Bikeway itself than the Soundview improvements (if there are choices to be made), I do feel that the proposed improvements to Soundview would continue to develop that area in ways that, again, support positive, family-oriented commerce and quality of life. We often go to Soundview to take an evening stroll, take a few turns on the carousel, walk the beach, eat some food, or take in a concert. It has a wonderful old world charm that I hope Old Lyme can support with these new improvements.

I would be happy to share more regarding why I feel these developments should progress — not least that there is 80% federal financial support for such improvements. In terms of traffic, commerce, and financial support for development in our dear town, I don't think we could do better than this. It's a hat trick if I've ever seen one!

Please do support this without reservation.

Many thanks for your ear and, mostly, for all that you do for us.

Sousan

Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor & Doctoral Program Coordinator

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

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7-14-15

Hi Bonnie, Mary Jo and Skip,

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

Thank you for the recent public info meeting for the proposed Bike Way and SV improvements.

Our household supports the proposed focus on multi-modal transportation, safety and Hartford Ave street scape improvements, to make the best use of available transportation grant funds while the town pursues other funding for the SV Green and public toilets facility and cost-savings measures. Surely there are grants, donations and memorial funding opportunities to help finance town greens, benches and public facilities.

This proposed plan is the best use of available funding, and as year round residents who live along Rt. 156, we welcome the town's recognition of the need to provide for more physical recreation by residents and visitors.

Although Niantic "Main Street" had its share of discomfort and disagreements over lampposts, urban trees and crosswalks (and we've lost track of the final decisions and whether the best design selections were made and stuck to in the end), people can go one town over to see the benefits of redoing streets and sidewalks to make them more conducive and welcoming to pedestrians and slower transportation.

Regarding highway safety along Rt. 156, we thought the stretch from Buttonball to exit 70 already is one of the more active speed traps in town. But we'd welcome increased enforcement along the entire stretch because of the shared bike road.

In fact, commercial improvements at Black Hall Marina, the addition of the Cupcake shop next to Old Lyme Seafood, the re-opened Grill restaurant and existence of the public kayak launch at Lieutenant River are all reasons for drivers to slow down and enjoy our town. This is such a scenic stretch along a shore road, the emphasis should be on encouraging more slow transportation and recreation along it, for the benefit of all town residents.

The Ferry Road/Rt. 156 stretch is a challenging area. Perhaps the committee should consider crosswalks and pedestrian activated stop-lights on Rt. 156. If and when the town advances with Halls Road street scape efforts, the town could be adding more pedestrian crossings there, too. This is all a part of the "aging in place," providing us opportunities to walk more and drive less.

Good luck with the continual sewerage solution. Continue to move forward with both those plans and these transportation and street scape improvements. And, as you are doing, keep considering how future sewer digging could impact other infrastructure going into place.

Thanks  
Suzanne & Brent Thompson  
6 Cord Grass Lane  
Old Lyme

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

12th June, 2015

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I am writing in support of the Sound View Park and Bikeway project, which will bring much-needed amenities to the streetscape on Hartford Avenue and encourage bike and pedestrian access.

The beach is a major attraction, which draws people from all over, and this project will greatly improve safety and accessibility for visitors and residents alike. Townspeople will be able to bike or walk to the beach area, leaving their cars at home. This will help to further integrate Sound View into the fabric of the town, making it a more attractive destination. I have noticed how similar projects have improved the business districts of other towns, and I am glad to see the Selectmen taking this step to make Sound View more appealing to a broader range of people.

While I wish the scope of the project could be larger, and include the original goals of a landscaped greenspace and restrooms in the parking lot, I applaud the Selectmen for prudently adjusting the project to make the most of the grant money available, and I wholeheartedly support moving forward with Phase One of the improvements.

Sincerely,

Michaëlle Pearson

7-13-15

Your presentation of the Sound View improvement and bike way project was very thorough and informative. I live at 70 Portland Ave. and have spent summers here since I was a child. This planning is long overdue and will be a benefit to Sound View businesses and residents. Old Lyme will benefit in having a beautiful beach area for visitors to come to. Bikes are a part of our "changing world" as one speaker stated. Most towns have bike paths. We should not be left behind. It is also important that we not lose any grants or state funding. So let's move forward with this much needed project.

Mary Hyland  
70 Portland Ave.

7/13/15

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
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Bonnie ,

I am writing this letter with regard to the Rt 156 bikeways and Sound View Improvement Plan.

As an owner of 6 building on Hartford ave consisting of 6 commercial and 12 residential rentals, I feel this design at this time has effected my businesses and tenants lives in a negative manner..Since the start of this change in parking, taking away parking and moving commercial parking has done nothing but destroy what little commercial businesses that I have left.

The sharing of a road with bikes with out their own lane is totally ludicrous.It is dangerous.

The thought of digging up the street and sidewalks at this time makes no sense to me. No matter what you do to this road and sidewalks this street will still look like it does with the buildings that are there.The town needs to Focus on working with the property owners to help them with fixing and or rebuilding the area, putting in sewers lines , underground utilities and then finish with a road and side walk design.

I do like the new design but have issues with wasting Tax dollars on something that will be dug up in a few years for sewers and then again in a few more years for new housing and or condos.

At this time I do not think you should go ahead with this plan and I hope that instead you will sit down with us that live on Hartford Ave and run businesses on Hartford Ave and not listen to a commission that has no interest in or on my street.

Heidi Dinino Fields

7-7-15

Maryjo,

Seasonal businesses require many customers in a short time. Hartford Ave has to support those customers with as many parking spaces as possible.

Please consider the parking plan option that has two-sided parking and two-way traffic on Hartford Ave.

Jerry Vowles  
75-81 Hartford Ave

7-8-15

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

Dear Selectmans Office,

Thank you for the detailed information about The Route 156 Bike Way and Sound View Improvements that was presented on June 22, 2015. The presentation was very detailed, well thought out, and well presented.

I am the owner of A.C. Petersen Drive-In at Hallmark located at 113 Shore Road, Old Lyme. I would like to express my full support of the project.

It is very obvious that improvements are needed in Sound View. While the goal of public bathrooms and a green space is very exciting, it is apparent that the monies being offered from the State are from the Department of Transportation, and will only be granted for transportation related projects. In fact, that was stated by the DOT representative. I would love to see those improvements to Sound View eventually, and I hope that the town will continue towards that goal.

I believe that the street and sidewalk improvements to Route 156 and Sound View should be the first priority. The State is willing to fund the bulk of the project, and it would only make sense to take advantage of that. There is a cost to the Town, but the 20% or so of the project is small compared to the overall value. I believe that infrastructure should always be the first step. Once the roads are improved, lighting is enhanced, and sidewalks are widened, the town can move to the next layer of bathrooms and green space.

As a business owner, I see the potential for my restaurant to grow. Biking is a new and upcoming hobby. It is organized, and a person interested in biking could find the route on websites and other material. That can only draw more people. In addition, it would not just be summer business, but spring and fall also. Obviously, A.C. Petersen is right on that route, so I know it would help my business. However, I feel it would help all the businesses in the area as the project would draw more people to Old Lyme.

Thank you for your efforts on this project, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Catherine Denton  
Owner  
A.C. Petersen at Hallmark  
113 Shore road  
860-233-3651

7-7-15

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

I think the plans for the Route 156 Bike Way from Hartford Ave. to Old Saybrook is wonderful and will help improve the beach and make it more "family" orientated. I can not believe that anyone would oppose this. The Design and plans look great. We need to clean up this beach once and for all!

I do have major concerns about the run down building of Kiddie Land and some other buildings on Hartford Ave. Not only are they a fire hazard but they also make the beach look horrible! Can we not do something about this? I know that someone bought it and heard that he can not knock it down and rebuild? I really do not understand why.

My father knew that cleaning up Soundview would not be in his lifetime, but my sister and I are hoping it can be in ours. My father had a vision of a nice family beach where families could go. Let's make this happen.

Thank you,  
Diane Carlo-Faenza

7-6-15

My wife and I attended the meeting Tuesday night. Everyone has done a lot of work to make this grant work. I drove over to town this morning and didn't realize how many people utilize the bike paths for jogging as well as biking. I also totally understand that the bike route and the sidewalks are the actual purpose of the grant. It would be a real shame to lose those funds. This is a major part of the town that is looked at as an eyesore. There is so much that needs to be done and I think the total plan was a good start in that direction. I know everyone must have been disappointed to see what the total cost of the entire project. The restrooms just put this over the top. However, I think what the community is really disappointed in is that there may not be enough money for the Park area. I am suggesting putting in the Park area and parking, without the restrooms at this time. This would make a nice continuum to bike from the Baldwin Bridge, down 156, to Hartford Avenue. A bike way and new sidewalks down Hartford Avenue, to a beautiful park area with picnic tables where someone could grab some food walk to the beach or sit in the shade. Keep the portal-potties for now.

How can this be accomplished? Most of the businesses are on one side of Hartford Avenue. The other side needs total renovation of buildings and infrastructure. My suggestion is to put the new sidewalks on the business side of the street. Maybe small modifications on the other side, but keep out enough funds to complete the park area. I think more of the community and town would support this approach. However, if that is not possible, at least use the grant as best you can. I am totally in favor of moving forward. Let's not lose all the committee has worked for.

Paul F. Pfau  
57 Portland Avenue  
Old Lyme, CT

76 Hartford Avenue  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

June 6, 2015

Bonnie Reemsnyder, First Selectwoman  
Town of Old Lyme  
52 Lyme Street  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Dear Bonnie,

I have been a resident at 76 Hartford Avenue for almost ten years. I have enjoyed every minute of my time spent here and appreciate being a resident of Old Lyme with its culture and historic value. I am also a member of the Lyme Art Association and value the opportunity to contribute to my community.

Sadly, I was unable to attend the presentation on June 30 regarding the Route 156 Bikeway and Sound View Improvements Project. I had friends who attended and shared the paper presentation that I was able to review. I am in favor of the improvements in general. The residents of Sound View Beach have long awaited such improvements. I am unhappy that the project for the restrooms is being put off again. This has been a discussion item as long as I have owned my home but I feel it is time to take action on this sorely needed improvement. I am delighted to see a bike lane and hope it spurs on more bike riders to the beach rather than more cars. That being said, I am concerned that this project will drastically reduce the number of cars that are able to park at Sound View Beach. How will the public gain access to this valuable asset in our town? I am sure the business owners have the same concern.

I appreciate that this is a timely project that involves federal grant funding which the town is wise to take advantage of. Increasing safety and accessibility to the beach for our citizens is a noteworthy goal. As a resident of Hartford Avenue, I am particularly concerned about the construction time line and any adverse effects this project may have on the accessibility to my home from April to November. Can you please add me to the list of people who would like regular updates? My email address is: [kathleentracy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathleentracy@sbcglobal.net).

I appreciate the commitment of the committee members and the Selectwomen and men who have dedicated their time to recognizing the value that Sound View Beach holds for the town in an effort to improve this asset. I encourage you to continue on this path, seeking out further funding to complete this project in a timely manner. I look forward to your updates.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Tracy, resident

Thursday, July 2, 2015 12:01 PM, harry duval <h\_duval@yahoo.com> wrote:

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

Good Morning Bonnie,

Thank you for returning my call. I called town hall and found out you would be out of the office for some time and it was suggested I send you an email.

First of all I hope you and Bob are enjoying yourselves wherever you are.

I read the article in Wednesday's edition of The Day regarding Sound View and specifically Hartford Avenue and that public comments were sought.

My concerns are the lack of understanding how and if sewerage would impact Hartford Avenue and also the overall cost impacts of improvements. I feel it would be premature to undertake any improvements until the sewerage issue is finally resolved. Once that has occurred a detailed improvement plan and specific cost impact might be appropriate.

Personally I feel that Hartford Avenue is a Memorial Day to Labor Day activity. I would also be interested to know what the property owners on the avenue would do to support any proposed improvements.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss these comments.

Harry Duval

7-1-15

BOS-- I applaud the work of the BOS and the Committee in developing an excellent initial plan for bike travel to the beach and upgrades to Hartford Avenue. This thoughtful planning is long overdue. All the citizens of our town-- and beyond-- will surely benefit from the significant improvements, whatever the final design plan. I fully support the direction of the project.

Ned Farman, 311-1 Ferry Rd.

6-30-15

A written comment at the meeting: Where are the commercial parking spaces?

7-3-15

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

First Selectwoman's Office

I appreciate all your efforts to improve the Sound View Beach area to employ a "complete street" concept to accommodate all users and enhance safety. It appears to be the first time a considerable amount of money is being directed to SVB improvement.

Our business has been on Hartford Ave for the past 27 years. We have seen a variety of changes with parking--- free parking, 2-hour parking, \$25 parking, angle parking, kiosk parking. Other small businesses have come and gone. The most common daily request is to use our bathroom.

I understand that phase one only concerns traffic and street safety , however, being unable to wash your hands after using the portable toilets and then holding your sandwich or french fries for lunch is not "personal safety".

Please consider the following issues and concerns:  
Upgrade the type of portable toilets to include a flush toilet with the ability to wash your hands.

Blight in the street - a new walkway with benches to look at unsightly buildings seems inappropriate.

30-minute parking spaces for businesses should be included in the plan.

Additional parking created north of businesses and parallel parking on both sides of the street to encourage pedestrian traffic to pass shops.

Spend the money the grant provides, but please think of the overall picture and future of SVB to help business not impede progress.

Sincerely

Dee Vowles  
75-81 Hartford Ave

7-1-15

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

While I support all efforts to improve the Sound View Beach Area I can't support the project as presented last night.

To begin with how the costs for the project was underestimated by 100% at this stage is alarming and questions the credibility of those involved.

The project does not have the support of the Hartford Avenue business community as this became very clear last night.

You appeared to be the chief supporter of this project at last nights meeting instead of it's champion, little enthusiastic support was expressed by members of the committee or the second selectmen, might consider backing off. You're way too close to this issue.

Is the parking space portion of this project more about homeowners in the area attempting to limit access to the beach by daytrippers by denying them vehicle parking?, I tend too support this suspicion.

Your consultant has done a poor/poor job on evaluating the traffic study on Rt 156, this was evident in their comments at the meeting.

You have to find a way of including the restrooms as the #1 priority, ahead of the sidewalks, the current sidewalks can surface for now but the lack of restrooms is the major issue for the area.

I believe town residents would support restrooms ahead of sidewalks even if it means loosing the DOT grant.

Bill Folland  
6 Dunns Lane  
Old Lyme, CT 06371  
wfoland@snet.net

July 1, 2015

**The Sound View Improvements Committee Follow-Up to the Public Informational Meeting for  
State Project #104-172**

Dear Bonnie,

Thank you for your excellent presentation of the Route 156 Bike Way and Sound View Improvements Project. The information was clear and specific. Providing us with the printed version of the slides is helpful in reviewing the project at home. The questions from the audience were answered with good depth of knowledge of the project and its process. Even with difficult questions, you and the committee answered with specific information and respect for the questioner.

I have been a resident of 21 Portland Ave. since 1953 when my father built our home. From my childhood years, through college years and as a teacher, wife and mother I have spent all my summer days at Sound View Beach. I am very excited about the proposed master plan for the Sound View area including Hartford Ave. improvements.

I also have rental property at 15 Portland Ave. I insist that my tenants be families because I believe in promoting Sound View Beach as a family vacation destination. My tenants and their children and grandchildren ride the carousel every evening, buy ice cream and lemon ice, shop for beach supplies, clothing and souvenirs on Hartford Ave. I'm sure these visitors to Sound View would appreciate safe sidewalks, improved lighting and beautiful plantings.

This week's tenants have brought their bicycles and have been riding them on the streets on Sound View and the other beaches. Through the years, my husband, my son, nieces, nephews and I cycled and a walked on 156 and the streets of Sound View. I believe the designated bicycle lanes would be helpful and safe for cyclists.

I appreciate the efforts of committee members and Selectmen in seeing Sound View as a treasure in Old Lyme and finally willing to work long and hard to enhance the area. I strongly support the first phase of the project and I am confident the remaining components of the master plan will be completed in the coming years. I am disappointed that the restrooms and Sound View Green cannot be included in the plan at this time. I do realize the committee with the DOT's guidance has designed the most doable plan for the amount of money available.

If there is anything I can do to further support this project please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Paula Uccello Melillo