

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ROUTE 156 ON-ROAD BIKE WAY AND SOUND VIEW IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

### **What is the Route 156 On-Road Bike Way and Sound View 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 reimbursement grant because the plan includes an on-road bike way from the Baldwin Bridge going east on Route 156 and south on Hartford Avenue.

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

A study and input from the community 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 federal grant covers up to 80% reimbursement for eligible project expenses. The Town is responsible for the remaining 20%.

### **Where is the grant funding coming from?**

The grant funding is through the Federal DOT Transportation Alternatives Fund. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) administers the eligible reimbursements and has design and construction oversight.

### **How much will the project cost?**

The cost of \$148,500 has been approved by ConnDot for the preliminary design and specifications phase and surveying is underway. The Town approved this amount at Town Meeting and is responsible for 20% of eligible expenses. The construction costs of the project will be determined following the completion of the Plan Designs and Specifications.

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

Public comment has been solicited and will continue to be a valuable part of the success of this project. To date, six public information sessions have been held on the conceptual project. There will be additional sessions to review the progress 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 this project financially feasible. To be eligible for the grant, we are obliged to follow the ConnDOT process, which included selecting a firm to develop the actual plans. The firm selected has demonstrated creativity and the requisite experience to address the sensitive environmental concerns of Sound View. The selected firm will develop project specifications, is responsible for survey/permit requirements and will provide actual plan designs for review and feedback.

### **What were the most important concerns in selecting a consultant engineering firm?**

The Selection Panel evaluated firms' qualifications and experience on similar projects. Included in this evaluation was the level of experience the firm has in planning bicycle routes and 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 through early 2014, a Committee selected the consultant engineer, negotiated the Scope of Work and Man Hours for the Plan and Design and held two public informational meetings. In April, 2014 the Town approved the appropriation of the funds for this phase at Town Meeting. Along with the Plan and Design Specifications, the engineers will provide an Opinion of Probable Construction Costs. This will initiate the second phase of the project – the Construction Phase estimated to begin in mid-2015. 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](http://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/Pages/OldLymeCT_projects/currentprojects)

Additionally, send questions and concerns to [maryjonosal@gmail.com](mailto: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 – *Current Stage*
  - Assignment meeting
  - Designer prepares Scope of Work 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 information session.
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 (if required)
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