

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

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

The project is designed to enhance the Sound View District of Old Lyme for the enjoyment of residents, businesses and visitors and is eligible for federal Transportation Alternatives funding. The design includes improvements on Hartford Ave. including an on-road bike route, ADA accessible sidewalks, reconfigured parking, decorative signage, drainage and bump-outs for benches and plantings or "pocket gardens." The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) will consider our on-road bike route recommendations from the Baldwin Bridge to Hartford Ave. when work is planned for Route 156.

### **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 federal 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 project will address long term safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

### **What are the transportation funding details?**

The federal funding allocated for the project covers up to 80% reimbursement for eligible project expenses. The Town is responsible for the remaining 20% of costs. The funding is through the Federal Highway Administration Transportation Alternatives Program. CTDOT administers the eligible reimbursements and has design and construction oversight.

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

Public comment is a valuable part of the success of this project. Several public information sessions have been held, including a required Public Information Meeting on 6/30/15, to solicit community input on the preliminary project design. Feedback was shared with our consultants and considered in the advanced designs.

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

The conceptual plan allowed us to apply for the federal funding which makes the project financially feasible. To be eligible for the funding, we are obligated to follow the CTDOT design process which included selecting an experienced consultant to develop the actual plans, design and specifications, and who is responsible for survey/permit requirements and providing the construction bid documents. The final plan is developed after actual engineering design, review by regulatory agencies, community input and funding allowance.

### **What are the project milestones and timeline?**

The project committee was formed in 2013. During the third quarter of 2013 through early 2014, the committee selected the consultant engineer, negotiated a Scope of Work for the Plan and Design, held two public informational meetings and convened a Town Meeting to appropriate the funds for the Planning and Design Process. Significant community support of the preliminary plans and the subsequent approval by CTDOT initiated the next steps, namely semi-final and final design. The plan is to go out to bid for construction in the third quarter of 2016. Ultimately, allocation for construction costs will need to be approved at a Town Meeting. Upon approval and contracting, construction is planned for the fall of 2016 with the majority of the work completed by December 2016, weather permitting.

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

\$148,500 was approved by CTDOT and at Town Meeting for the design stage of the project. The federal funding covers up to 80% reimbursement for eligible project expenses. The Town is responsible for the remaining 20% or approximately \$29,700. The estimated probable cost of construction for the new Hartford Avenue streetscape improvements is \$751,000. The federal funding will cover eligible expenses and is estimated at \$600,800. The Town is responsible for an estimated \$150,200. The committee continues to work towards reducing costs and maximizing the federal funding.

### **What are the project "phase-in" options?**

The estimated costs for the original conceptual improvements exceeded the federal funding allocated for the project. Therefore, the project team pursued a phase-in approach to the project as presented at the 6/30/15 meeting with CTDOT approval. Prioritizing safety, the current focus is maximizing the available transportation funding for the Hartford Ave. streetscape improvements. Future plans include adding attractive LED street lighting, developing the green space and parking lot and restrooms when additional funding and a sanitary connection are available.

**Can I receive regular updates about the project?** Yes, please visit the Town Of Old Lyme website:

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

## Typical CTDOT 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 (2013)
2. Municipal/State Design Agreement
3. Consultant Designer 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
  - Informational presentation for preliminary design feedback (10-22-14)
5. Preliminary Design (30-35% complete)
  - Town required to hold public information meeting at completion of preliminary design (6-30-15)
6. Design Approval
  - After Public Information Meeting, Town requests DOT to move forward with Final Design
  - 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 (if required)
- 11. Final Design (4/16)**
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 Consultant Selection
16. Municipal/Inspector Agreement - Same Process as Municipal/Designer Agreement
17. Construction Obligation
18. Contract Award (3<sup>rd</sup>Q of 2016)