

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION**  
**REGARDING PLAN FOR WEST MAIN STREET BRIDGE**

**WHEREAS**, the West Main Street Bridge, a.k.a. “The Purple Bridge”, is strategically located in the City of Stamford - in the Mill River Park, between the Downtown and the West Side districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Main Street Bridge is a vital conduit to and from the Downtown for the residents and businesses of the West Side; and

**WHEREAS**, due to its unsafe condition the West Main Street Bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, recent inspection shows the condition of the bridge continues to deteriorate, and

**WHEREAS**, the West Main Street Bridge once provided emergency vehicles a direct route from the Downtown and surrounding area to Stamford Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, due to its unsafe condition the West Main Street Bridge is now limited to pedestrian access only; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Main Street Bridge is “unsafe and is closed to pedestrians during every major storm” for fear of collapse (Operations Committee minutes, July 28, 2020); and

**WHEREAS**, recent hydraulic modeling indicates that the support pillars of the bridge interfere with the free flow of water, increasing the 100 year flood plain upstream of the bridge by 9.6 inches; and

**WHEREAS**, the intermediate support pillars trap debris, further impeding proper water flow, thus requiring City crews to periodically clear the waterway and inspect the bridge for additional damage; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond its unsafe condition, the dilapidated, rusted, blighted condition is both an eyesore and an insult to the residents and businesses of the area and the City at large; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Main Street Bridge carries gas, telephone, and communication lines whose interruption would severely disrupt City operations and be detrimental to public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 29, 2021, the Engineering Department and City Administration presented pathways forward that included a temporary replacement pedestrian bridge which would also support utilities and emergency vehicles en route to Stamford Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, transferring these utilities to a temporary bridge and subsequently to a permanent bridge would repeat the disruption of City operations and detriment to public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, for the reasons referenced above and many other reasons it is imperative that plans be developed and implemented with all deliberate speed to correct the situation of the West Main Street Bridge.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 30<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES** that, given the state of deterioration of the bridge, risk to critical utilities, required periodic inspections, need for repetitive debris removal, and adverse impact to the flood plain, the Administration proceed with deliberate speed, as a high priority public safety matter, with a plan to replace the existing bridge with a permanent bridge, avoiding the duplicate disruption entailed by a temporary bridge, and removing the existing bridge, installing the new bridge, and transferring said utilities in one single coordinated operation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, given the historical function of the existing bridge to provide a vital link between the Downtown and the West Side for the flow of people and commerce, the Administration consider a permanent replacement bridge that fully restores the prior link between Downtown and the West Side for pedestrians, vehicles, and emergency vehicles.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the trusses of the existing historical bridge be preserved for some future use.