

O30.102

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION REPLACEMENT OF WEST MAIN STREET BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the West Main Street Bridge, a.k.a. "The Purple Bridge" is strategically located in the City of Stamford, between the Downtown and the West Side District; and

WHEREAS, historically the existing bridge provided a vital link between the Downtown and the West Side for the flow of people and commerce; and

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

WHEREAS, CONDOT required periodic inspections shows that 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; 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, the BOR is considering the approval of possible approaches to repair, restore, reconstruct or entirely replace the West Main Street Bridge, with all options designed to be climate resilient and avoid, or minimize as much as practical, impact to the flood plain.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the 31st Board of Representatives:

1. That the Administration study four alternative plans for consideration:
 - a. Removal of the current bridge and replacement with a prefabricated pedestrian bridge without provision for preservation of the current bridge's historical elements.
 - b. Construction of a renovated/restored pedestrian bridge that would preserve historical elements of the current bridge with an option to also accommodate vehicles.
 - c. Construction of a new pedestrian and vehicular bridge without provision for preservation of the current bridge's historical elements; and
 - d. Construction of a pedestrian and vehicular bridge with provisions for restoration and/or renovation of ~~the~~ historical features of the current bridge.

2. That the Administration evaluates each of the above possibilities through the following parameters:
 - a. Cost and availability of grants/alternative funding sources
 - b. Time; Duration of construction
 - c. Public Safety; including consideration of street crime, pedestrian safety, and access to Stamford Hospital
 - d. Traffic Study: Analysis and impacts

3. That the Administration conducts extensive Community outreach and dialogue with neighborhood residents, business owners, consumers, and other city stakeholders in order that each of the evaluation parameters be shared and discussed as proposed plans for the West Main Street Bridge are developed.

4. That the Administration, at the conclusion of its evaluation of the alternatives using the above parameters and Community input, present its findings to the Board of Representatives in order to engage its full participation in developing future plans for the West Main Street Bridge.

Revised 01/28/2022

Reps. De la Cruz, Nabel, Sherwood