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The City of Bristol Receives a Community Connectivity Grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation to Expand Pedestrian Connectivity in the Downtown Area

(BRISTOL, CT January 25, 2021) – The City of Bristol is happy to announce the award of a Community Connectivity Grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation in the amount of \$439,405 to help improve and expand pedestrian connectivity within Bristol’s Downtown and West End Neighborhoods. The funds will be used for construction of sidewalks, ADA-compliant ramps, signage and crosswalks for pedestrian connectivity enhancements.

The City of Bristol was one of 10 towns and cities across the state awarded this grant under a competitive grant program administered by the Department of Transportation for projects that support improved mobility and accessibility, as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety. This was an extremely competitive round of funding, with 43 municipalities applying for funds.

The Community Connectivity Grant Program is an infrastructure improvement program that seeks to provide construction funding for local initiatives that will improve the safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians in urban, suburban and rural community centers.

The City’s 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) contains three goals relevant to this grant award: to promote pedestrian circulation, to enhance opportunities for bicycle circulation and mobility, and to improve public transit options available in Bristol. “Bristol residents who live in the downtown area are more likely to walk to the store or to work, to use bicycles to get around with safe and improved sidewalks and curb cuts,” said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu.

“This is our second Connectivity grant and another great example of city departments working together,” said Councilwoman Mary Fortier who serves on both the Public Works Board and Commission on Persons with Disabilities. “The Public Works staff worked with the Mayor’s office and the Grants Administrator to write and submit the proposal.

“I am pleased to hear that we received this grant, and that the City is continuing its commitment to enhance and improve accessibility for all residents,” said Dan Micari, chair of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

The streets that will be impacted in the Downtown and West End Neighborhoods will include Haviland Street, Jacobs Street, West Street (Route 69), Church Street, Park Street (Route 72), and South Street.

Photo attached: *Sidewalks in Downtown Bristol.*



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