

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: SACHEM STREET at Prospect Street, Authorization for Right of Way Modifications (City Engineer).
REPORT: 1444-07
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City Engineer has proposed a realignment of Sachem Street west of Prospect Street. This two block segment of the Sachem Street roadway between Winchester Avenue and Prospect Street is not aligned with the two block segment between Prospect and Whitney Avenue. In recent years this area has become much busier and more congested with pedestrian and vehicular traffic, including Connecticut Transit which has a major bus route (O Line) using Winchester Avenue to Sachem and Prospect Streets.

Before the Board is a proposed Order discontinuing and abandoning a portion of the Sachem Street right of way and accepting a similar sized parcel of land from Yale University to be incorporated into the Sachem Street right of way to accommodate a new roadway alignment to be constructed under the Development Agreement between the City and Yale University.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Specifically, a 1,683 square foot City-owned parcel (part of Sachem Street ROW) at the southwest corner of the Prospect/Sachem intersection will be discontinued and abandoned by the City and conveyed to Yale University, and in return a 1,684 square foot like size parcel at the northwest corner will be conveyed by Yale University to the City, as shown in a Survey dated August 2010 by URS. In the end, the result of these two actions will be a newly aligned roadway moved slightly to the north. The new alignment will allow for more efficient and safer turning movements of CT Transit buses as well as other vehicles, and will provide for safer pedestrian passage across Prospect Street. The realignment of this intersection will maintain an axis for pedestrians connecting from the Science Hill campus and the Yale School of Management to the two future residential colleges and across the Farmington Canal Greenway to Yale's new Health Center.

There are some utility pole relocations and tree removals within the parcel to be conveyed to the City as well as a retaining wall which will need to be reconstructed. All costs of the realignment will be covered under the Yale Development Agreement.

ADVICE

The Commission believes the realignment is in keeping with the City's new Complete Streets policy to develop and promote a safe, context-sensitive transportation network that serves all users and integrates the planning and design of complete streets that foster a livable, sustainable and economically vibrant community. It therefore recommends approval.

ADOPTED: September 22, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director