

DRAFT II

October 6, 2020

Connecticut Department of Transportation
Community Connectivity Grants
Office of Strategic Planning & Projects
Bureau of Policy and Planning
CTDOT.CCGP@ct.gov

**RE: Community Connectivity Grant Program 2020/2021
Application for Old Schoolhouse Rd., S.R. 68 & Center St. Sidewalk Connection
Prospect, Connecticut**

Dear members of the CCGP Review Committee,

The members of the Prospect Town Council, along with the Mayor, submit this letter to you in wholehearted support for the Town's application for grant funding under the 2020/2021 Community Connectivity Grant Program.

The center of Prospect hosts the intersection of Connecticut Routes 68 & 69, two main thoroughfares which pass through the majority of the town's commercial properties and near our town center, Town Hall and Town Green as well. The installation of sidewalks along these routes has long been included as a goal of our Plan of Conservation and Development in order to keep pedestrians safe, enhance foot traffic to businesses, improve the attractiveness of the main roads through town as well as to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle. Routes 68 & 69 are highly traveled roads which are surprisingly popular for walkers and joggers of all ages, despite the lack of safe walkways along them. Our regional middle school is located near the intersection. Each weekday after school, nearly thirty or more young people walk along the grassy roadsides to reach the local library, community center, ball fields and restaurants. Many of us have witnessed frightening vehicle vs. pedestrian "near misses." It is imperative to keep these young ones and all who walk these roads safe. Moreover, pedestrian traffic increases tremendously during every season of the year when there are parades, festivals and many other events on the town green, at local churches

and businesses. Sidewalks will make all of these excursions so much safer and provide a pleasant walking environment, which is currently non-existent, through our small town community.

Nearly two years ago, at a public hearing held to explore the pursuit of sidewalk construction through town, there was standing room only and overwhelming vocal support of this effort. The Town listened and began to pursue grants to aid in this enhancement project. We were thrilled to be approved for a LOTCIP grant to construct more than 4500 feet of sidewalks along the westerly side of Route 69 from Town Hall to the Hartford Health Care plaza. We are just weeks away from awarding the construction bid for the installation of the first sidewalks in town with construction to begin in spring 2021.

Receiving the CCCGP grant would allow the Town of Prospect to complete its circuit of sidewalks through the center of town and the most heavily developed areas of our business district. Utilizing the CCCGP funds will help us realize our goal and achieve the vision of safely connecting our community spaces, schools, parks, churches, businesses, and municipal offices, enhancing the pride and enjoyment of life in our small town.

We appreciate your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Robert J. Chatfield

and Town Council members:

Jeffrey Slapikas, Chairman

Stanley Pilat, Vice-Chairman

Richard Blanc

Theresa Cocchiola Graveline

Lawrence Fitzgerald

Stephanie Lusas-Kolodziej

Paul Murray

Megan Patchkofsky

Patricia Sullivan Geary