

DRAFT IV <Town of Prospect Letterhead>

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,

We, the Mayor of the Town of Prospect, together with the members of the Prospect Town Council, 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 also accessed through this 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." The Mayor and the Town Council take the safety of our children and residents very seriously. It is imperative to for us to improve the pedestrian safety in this area. Moreover, pedestrian traffic increases tremendously in these central areas during every season of the year when the Town and local churches, businesses and organizations host parades, festivals and many other events. We all believe that 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, the Town hosted a public hearing to explore the pursuit of sidewalk construction through town. At the hearing, there was standing room only and overwhelming vocal support of this effort. Following the hearing, the Town moved forward 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 expected to begin in spring 2021.

Receiving the CCGP grant would allow the Town of Prospect to complete a full circuit of sidewalks through the center of town and the most heavily developed areas of our business district, giving our community a safer and more pedestrian-friendly environment. Constructing these sidewalks will help us realize our goal to achieve the vision of safely connecting our community spaces, schools, parks, churches, businesses, and municipal offices, as well as promote an active, healthy lifestyle. Most importantly, we are certain that utilizing these grant funds as proposed will enhance the pride and enjoyment of life in our small town for all who live in, work in or visit the Town of Prospect.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Robert J. Chatfield

and Members of the Prospect Town Council:

Jeffrey Slapikas, Chairman

Stanley Pilat, Vice-Chairman

Richard Blanc

Theresa Cocchiola Graveline

Lawrence Fitzgerald

Stephanie Lusas-Kolodziej

Paul Murray

Megan Patchkofsky

Patricia Sullivan Geary