

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



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FUNDING AWARDED TO RECONSTRUCT ELM STREET

State Representative Dorinda Borer (D- West Haven), together with **West Haven Mayor, Nancy R. Rossi**, local officials and members of the West Haven legislative delegation held a press conference today announcing state funds approved at the CT State Bond Commission's for the reconstruction of Elm Street. Elm Street is the entrance to the future site of The Haven, an upscale shopping mall which will be located in the 115th District where Borer represents.

A \$5 million state grant was allocated to the city of West Haven through the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Urban Action Grant Program. The purpose of the grant is to assist with traffic improvement to Elm Street and with public waterfront access near Water Street in support of the redevelopment plan's framework, primarily surrounding the Haven, which is slated to be a 200,000 square foot retail and restaurant facilities.

The Elm Street reconstruction includes widening of the main corridor and replacing traffic signals, paving, and street scape, which is located near the entrance of the project. After a major traffic study, the funds were awarded to address the traffic flow.

"Securing state funding for this project was a bipartisan effort and a collective priority of the administration and delegation. **Rep. Borer** said. "I am thankful to all involved for recognizing the great potential we have here in West Haven. The Elm Street project is not just about building and improving the gateway to the Haven, this project is about the gateway to our City. Besides Lorenzo's plaza, which is a diamond in the rough, the first impression when you come over the bridge and enter the city, is not a good one, and changing that is long overdue. Cleaning up this area, widening Elm Street, putting in appropriate lanes and traffic signals, and paving will all have a significant impact not only on the functionality but will kick off a change in the image. It will also be more inviting to future developers throughout West Haven."

The Haven expected to break ground this year, is a 26 acre site luxury retail outlet shopping center, to be located in the Waterfront District of West Haven, will feature over 200,000 square feet of retail space including restaurant facilities, ample parking space and a waterfront pedestrian park.

Mayor Rossi said, “West Haven appreciates the investment that this funding represents to our city and to the state. The five million dollars that the bond commission approved supports important redevelopment and I am grateful to the governor and the commission, as well as Rep. Borer for being an advocate for the Havens project and the entire West Haven delegation for their efforts as well. The future Haven South development will be enhanced by traffic improvements to Elm Street and access to our waterfront. These funds are for architectural, engineering and construction services and we all know that this means jobs. I would also like to thank my chief of staff, Lou Esposito, and Commissioner Fred A. Messore for facilitating this project and former Mayors, John Picard and Edward O’Brien for their work on this project.”

Rep. Mike DiMassa (D-West Haven) said, “These investments will improve our infrastructure and will be a catalyst for the Haven Development which is slated to bring hundreds of jobs and annual tax revenue to the City of West Haven.”

John P. Dionis, VP, Development Premium Outlets said, “The awarding of this grant by Governor Malloy and his administration is greatly appreciated as we continue to advance our transformational project, The Haven. Simon and The Haven Group also wish to thank the citizens of West Haven, Mayor Nancy Rossi, former Mayor's Ed O’Brien and John Picard and their administrations for their steadfast support of this development.”

Fred A. Messore, Commissioner of Planning and Development for the City of West Haven said, “Today is an exciting step moving this project forward and consistent with the efforts from 2003, when the City, under Mayor H. Richard Borer, adopted the West River Municipal Development Plan in part to address the redevelopment of the area along the Eastern Gateway to the City of West Haven that borders the West River and to address the inefficiency of moving traffic along our roadway of Elm Street – more recently, with the site plan approval in July for the "Haven" high end retail outlet. This bond allocation will assist towards the costs associated with improvements to the roadway along while staying consistent with the original mission of the Municipal Development Plan of 2003.”

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