

Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 7, 2023

City of Hartford

260 Constitution Plaza, 1st Floor

Hartford, Connecticut 06103

(860) 757-9205

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Hartford.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 1, 2023 **the City of Hartford will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval to undertake a project known as** the South Branch Trail Easement **for the purpose of** expanding the multi-use South Branch Trail along the South Branch Park River in Hartford to connect the regional network of trails and open space. Currently, the South Branch Trail extends from Flatbush Avenue south to Nilan Street, roughly parallel to the South Branch of the Park River and Brookfield Street. This project will extend the southern end of the South Branch Trail from Nilan Street to Newfield Avenue.

There is no HUD funding associated with this project. However, the South Branch Trail will traverse approximately 1,300 linear feet of property that falls under the purview of HUD. As such, the granting of an easement across the property is a federal action involving federal real estate and therefore, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (Public Law 91-190; 42 United States Code [USC] 4321-4347), its implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500–1508), and the HUD’s regulations and policies, requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts to the human environment that may result from the granting of the easement to the City of Hartford.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Hartford has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Hartford Town and City Clerk’s Office (550 Main Street, 1st Floor, Suite 104, and

www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Town-and-City-Clerk), and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:15 A.M to 4:30 P.M. Project information is also available at <https://www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Departments/DDS>, under “Public Meetings and Information”. The Environmental Review Record is also available on the HUD HEROS platform at www.cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Owen Deutsch at the City of Hartford Department of Development Services by email at owen.deutsch@hartford.gov. All comments received by September 1, 2023 will be considered by the *City of Hartford* prior to authorizing submission of a request for project approval. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Hartford certifies to HUD that Celina Caez in her capacity as the City of Hartford Department of Development Services Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Hartford to proceed with the project.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its approval and the City of Hartford’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Hartford; (b) the City of Hartford has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD administration office at 20 Church Street, 10th Floor. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Owen Deutsch, AICP
Principal Planner
City of Hartford
Department of Development Services