



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Elaine Daignault, M.A., N.C.C.
Director of Human Services
(203) 341-1165 email: elained@westportct.gov



October 2nd, 2019

TO: Planning and Zoning Commission

CC: Mary Young, Planning and Zoning
Peter Ratkiewicz, Department of Public Works
Elaine Daignault, Department of Human Services

RE: Myrtle Avenue Project

To Whom It May Concern,

The Commission on People with Disabilities is writing in support of the Department of Public Works Myrtle Avenue Improvement Project 8-24 proposal to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety with a particular focus on inclusive, ADA access for all residents.

The existing, non-conforming sidewalks on Myrtle Avenue are fragmented and do not offer continuous ADA accessibility. It is important to bring this area up to code with ADA ramps, crosswalks, and signage to improve dangerous conditions. We understand that the proposal will also re-pave the roads and minimize the curvature of the street in a few places to alleviate driver blind spots, hence improving pedestrian safety and alleviating traffic issues on Myrtle Avenue to the Post Road. The intersections of Evergreen Parkway and Church Lane are currently dangerous to traverse. Both areas lack cross walks, signage and ramps on both sides of the street. This proposal will address all of the aforementioned issues.

The Commission on People with Disabilities' mission is to ensure that "Westport is a town where people with disabilities have the equal opportunity and the support to enjoy full and equal access to lives of independence, productivity, inclusion and self-determination." The role of the Commission is to look at all aspects of the town and its resources, engaging in public dialogue and creating opportunities for understanding, advocacy and community responses to the needs of all of its residents, including individuals with hearing, visual, intellectual and physical challenges.

The Commission on People with Disabilities supports and endorses the sidewalk development plan as prepared by the Town of Westport's Department of Public Works engineering division to improve safety, convenience and accessibility for all. We encourage the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the plan as proposed during the October 3rd Planning and Zoning Hearing.

Respectfully,

The Commission on People with Disabilities