

# City Of Torrington

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## Economic Development Quarterly Report May 2020

### CITY-WIDE PROJECTS

- Franklin Street Plaza - *Progress continues on the Plaza and turning circle. Project expected to be completed early summer*
- Pennrose Affordable Housing Development – 100 Franklin Street  
*CHFA application was approved. Construction expected to start this fall.*
- Torrington Savings Bank – New Construction – *under construction*
- Honda Sullivan – New Construction – *CO Issued*

### GRANTS

- \$1,000,000 DECD Brownfield Remediation Grant – 100 Franklin Street  
*Draft bid will be sent to DECD for review by the end of the week. DECD review is expected to take 15-days, then public bid will be released. Clean up to begin in July, work will take approx. 6 weeks.*
- \$300,000 DECD Brownfield Remediation and Assessment Grant– 200 Litchfield St. & 105 Summer St. *All grant documents have been finalized and funds became available on May 6, 2020. Funds will be used to remediate asbestos at 200 Litchfield St and additional assessment work at both 200 Litchfield St. & 105 Summer St.*
- \$750,000 Building Healthier Communities Grant – Economic Development Strategies *This grant is designed to develop and implement an Economic Gardening Strategy that will help support growth of our existing businesses. This grant will also focus on position the City to attract new development. We have an active RFQ for permitting software, closing dated 5-22-2020. A contract was recently awarded to Good Earth Advisors, for an on-call Economic Development Planning consultant to assist with the implementation of this grant.*
- \$275,000 OPM Smart Growth Grant – Sue Grossman 5-Mile Extension routing study and design *The routing study, to extend the Sue Grossman Still River Greenway from Harris drive, where it currently ends, to Franklin Street is complete. The consultants have recently completed 30% design of all 5 miles. After City review period, plans will be finalized. Work is being designed in phases that allow the City to seek State and Federal funds for construction.*

- \$1.9M OPM Smart Growth Grant – Sidewalks on E. Main Street. *Plans nearly complete, working with DOT to address required improvements at pedestrian crossings. Soon as DOT issues approval, project will go out to bid. Anticipated Stat this summer.*
- \$385,000 Community Connectivity Grant – Improvements at Municipal Library Parking Lot, wayfinding signage, & improved pedestrian lighting in parking areas *The bulk of this grant is for improvements to the municipal parking on next to the Library, which is currently being designed as part of the Sue Grossman Greenway extension. Once design is complete, project can be bid. The other projects included in this grant is wayfinding signage to parking lots and at the parking lots for pedestrian, improved pedestrian lighting at all downtown municipal parking lots and crosswalks re-painted.*
- \$250,000 (administered through NWHCOG) E. Main Street Corridor Study *Data collection portion of this study is underway. The study will focus on reducing congestion, pedestrian safety and improvements to incentivize new development along the corridor. Key Economic Development nodes have been identified and will be studied in more detail. Due to COVID-19 the public outreach will be done at a later this summer and will be redesigned to follow all social distancing protocols.*

### **COVID-19 Recovery Plans**

- Torrington's Community-wide Recovery Steering Committee  
*This Committee is to identify the needs within the community and relay those needs up the chain of command.*

*Michael Menard, LARC, and I will be Co-Chairs of this Committee. Marty Connor, City Planner, is the chair of the Regional Recovery Steering Committee and will also be a member of the local committee. This Committee plans to meet weekly, starting the week of 5/28.*

- “Survive & Thrive Plan” Economic Recovery Plan  
*The intention of this plan is not only to help our businesses survive this pandemic, but help them to thrive now and in the future. The efforts made during this pandemic are designed strengthen our business community and build collaboration that can be applicable after this pandemic. Many of the efforts connected to our Building Healthier Communities Grant, such as Economic Gardening. The following steps have already begun, and will continue to be developed and adjusted as needed.*
  - *Website up to date with all pertinent information related to COVID-19*
  - *Outreach to all businesses through mailing, personal emails and phone calls*
  - *Collecting contact information for all businesses, including email and owner*
  - *Industry specific work groups, to identify the needs, resources and collaborations that are unique to that industry*

- *Industry specific Tele-Town Hall meetings: Encourage collaboration and provide important information in a timely manner.*
- *Working closely with community partners such as the NW CT Chamber of Commerce and NW CT Arts Council to identify the needs of all businesses*
- *Working Closely with NW Hills COG: Possible access to federal recovery funds. Also, joint collaboration on the Development and Promotion of the it's Happening Here and Discover Litchfield Hills websites*

Sincerely,

Rista Malanca, AICP  
Director of Economic Development  
City of Torrington