

## Murphy, Meriden Officials Announce Progress on Flood Control Grant, Tour Flood-Prone Areas

Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) came to Meriden to announce, along with city officials, that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a \$650,000 grant for flood control in the city.

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MERIDEN - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) came to Meriden to announce, along with city officials, that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a \$650,000 grant for flood control in the city. Meriden Mayor Michael Rohde, along with other city officials, asked Murphy to put in the funding request so that the Columbus Avenue bridge could be re-designed to alleviate flooding from Harbor Brook.

"Fixing Meriden's flooding problems will lead to economic growth and the ability to create jobs. Meriden's economy needs a long-term solution to the city's flooding - bridge by bridge, project by project, we are protecting the downtown, and this grant is the next step in making flooding in Meriden a problem of the past," said Murphy.

The Harbor Brook floodplain has experienced significant flooding from the late 1800's to the present, with at least eleven major flooding incidents causing substantial economic damage in the central city area. Murphy, Rohde and others made the announcement at the Coe Avenue bridge, near the intersection with Bradley Avenue, where a completed reconstruction project has already reduced flooding in that area. Then the group toured other flood-prone areas, including the Meriden HUB property.

"The City of Meriden is happy to see that this critical funding has passed the House of Representatives. It comes at a perfect time for the Downtown Flood Control Project, which is a major part of Meriden's future progress. Meriden is experiencing very positive momentum these days with respect to its downtown vision and image. The announcement of this grant by Congressman Murphy is yet another step in the right direction," said Rohde.

The \$650,000 grant Murphy secured will come from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation and Community and System Preservation account. Before Meriden receives the funding, the Senate must approve it and President Obama must sign it into law.

photo - Chris tours flood-prone areas of Meriden with local officials

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