

Department of Transportation

Project No. 25-140 Culvert Replacement on Routes 68/70 (West Main Street) Over the Farmington Canal

Town of Cheshire

Public Information Meeting Held at Cheshire Town Hall Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Minutes

Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation lasting approximately 20 minutes was delivered by Mr. William Britnell, from the Department of Transportation, (Department) concerning the proposed culvert replacement followed by a short explanation of the Department's Right of Way process by Mr. Steve Degen.

The presentation covered the following items:

- ⇒ This meeting would focus on the Farmington Canal Culvert Replacement
- ⇒ Three projects coordinated on West Main Street (Route 68/70):
 - Farmington Canal Culvert Replacement (DOT)
 - Streetscape Improvements (Town of Cheshire)
 - Farmington Canal Trail (Town of Cheshire)
- ⇒ Need to replace the existing culvert:
 - Partial collapse of ceiling stones
 - Loss of fill material
 - Pavement degradation in shoulder
 - Maintenance pavement repairs and inlet stabilization
 - Reduced hydraulic capacity and occasional flooding
- ⇒ Proposed replacement culvert (4'x7' & 5'x7') concrete boxes, scheduled for construction in 2011.
- ⇒ Lengths of proposed culverts extended to eliminate the need for guide rail and facilitate proposed extension of Farmington Canal multi-use trail. This will also improve the appearance of the area by eliminating the current concrete barrier and sand barrels (impact attenuator).
- ⇒ Weekend detour proposed to minimize construction staging and cost using three town roads:
 - Willow Street
 - Cornwall Ave.
 - Mountain Road

- ⇒ Police will be used at affected intersections during the detour period to help control traffic and facilitate turns by large trucks. Access to all businesses and properties on West Main Street will be maintained.
- ⇒ Estimated Cost is \$1.25 million, to be funded with 80% Federal funds and 20% State funds.

Public Comments and Questions

Approximately 8 residents attended, of which approximately 4 took the opportunity to ask questions or make comments, which are summarized below, along with the responses:

- ⇒ The culvert design and the Farmington Canal Trail crossing design on West Main Street should be coordinated. The Department and Town responded that the projects have been, and will continue to be, coordinated.
- ⇒ If the severity of the culvert deterioration worsens, could the schedule be accelerated? If the condition worsens severely, an emergency declaration could be declared that would allow the culvert to be replaced quickly. At this time, this does not appear to be necessary.
- ⇒ West Main Street is frequently used by oversized vehicles. Will the oversize vehicles be permitted through the project area during the detour period? The Department controls when and where these vehicles are allowed to travel and will prohibit them from using this road during the detour period. The Chief of Police suggested that they be prohibited from the area during the entire construction period due to the tight conditions that will be encountered when traffic is shifted prior to the detour period. The Department will consider this suggestion.

Other questions regarding the design details and right of way needs were answered.

During the open house sessions before and after the presentation, residents asked about the effects of their properties. In all cases, there was no or very little effect.

There were no objections to proposed improvements or use of a detour to expedite construction.

It was stated that the Department will review the comments from the meeting, along with any additional comments submitted in writing or by e-mail in the next two weeks.

Adjournment

The question and answer session was concluded at approximately 8:10 p.m. The Department representatives then continued to speak with residents informally until approximately 8:30 p.m.