

DEC 17 2001

FROM THE DESK OF CARL F. BARD			
NAME	FYI	PLS DO	PLS SEE ME
DEC 13 2001			
W.R. STARK			
S.J. SBALCIO			
T.A. HARLEY		X	
FILE			

December 12, 2001

Mr. Bradley Keazer  
 Division Administrator  
 Federal Highway Administration  
 628-2 Hebron Avenue, Suite 303  
 Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

Dear Mr. Keazer:

Subject: Project No. 138-221  
 F.A.P. No. MGS-95-1(160)34  
 I-95/Moses Wheeler Bridge  
 Stratford/Milford  
**Request for Concurrence in a  
 Categorical Exclusion  
 Determination and Design Approval**

**DESCRIPTION:** This project concerns the replacement of the Interstate 95 bridge (Bridge No. 00135) over the Housatonic River, commonly referred to as the Moses Wheeler Bridge. The existing bridge will be replaced with a new bridge, which will be widened to the north of the existing bridge and will be constructed in stages to maintain traffic in both directions on Interstate 95. The related approach roadways to the new bridge will also be reconstructed by this project.

This portion of Interstate 95 will provide 3.6 meter outside shoulders, three-3.6 meter travel lanes in each direction, separated by an 11.6 meter wide median consisting of 4.8 meter inside shoulders and a 2 meter capped concrete barrier section. The inside and outside shoulders will taper off to match the existing shoulders at the project limits.

In addition, there are two other bridges that will be reconstructed and one new bridge that will be constructed within the project limits. These are Bridge No. 00133 over U.S. Route 1 (Barnum Avenue Cutoff), Bridge No. 00134 over U.S. Route 1 (East Main Street) and a new bridge, Interstate 95 over Naugatuck Avenue.

400

The proposed project also includes the construction of four retaining walls within the project limits. There is one noise barrier wall proposed within the project limits. The noise barrier wall will be placed at the Elbon Street neighborhood in Milford. The total length of this project is approximately 2.3 kilometers.

**FUNDING:** The Preliminary Engineering, Rights of Way and Construction phases of this project are being undertaken with federal participation.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this project is to replace the structurally deficient superstructure and to provide adequate inside and outside shoulders.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** In conformance with the Department's Policy on Public Involvement/Public Hearings for Highway Layouts (Corridor) and Designs, two public informational meetings concerning the replacement of the Interstate 95 bridge over the Housatonic River were held on June 5, 2001 and June 7, 2001 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Auditorium in the City of Milford and at the Town Hall Chambers in the Town of Stratford.

Also, a design public hearing was held on August 22, 2001 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall Chambers in the Town of Stratford which informed the public of a partial elimination of a retaining wall and acquisition of additional right-of-way in Stratford. A plan showing this proposal was delivered to the Stratford Town Clerk's office on August 6, 2001. This was a combined public hearing serving both the Town of Stratford and the City of Milford. Due to the public comments from the public hearing, the Department has gone back to the original design that was presented at the public informational meeting. The noise barrier wall, which was proposed at the Sidney Street neighborhood, has been eliminated due to the unanimity of the adjacent property owners.

The Department has satisfied the public informational meeting and public hearing requirements, which are consistent with the federal, state and local objectives. All the meetings afforded full opportunity for responsive public participation and consideration by providing a medium for free and open discussion. The Department has also responded to various letters and emails from residents in the area who had specific questions about the project.

The legal notice for the public hearing appeared in the classified section of the New Haven Register and the Connecticut Post on August 7, 2001 and August 20, 2001.

A certified copy of the public hearing transcript is enclosed for your information and files.

**REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION:**

This project has been reviewed in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement for approval of certain Categorical Exclusions between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) dated August 1997. Based upon this review, ConnDOT has determined that an individual Categorical Exclusion is required for this project. The following information is provided for Programmatic CE conditions that were not met. A completed CE checklist is enclosed.

**Hazardous Waste:** There is an adjacent super-fund site. The property has been and will continue to be monitored by State and Federal regulatory agencies. No property acquisition is anticipated.

**Wetlands:** The presence of tidal wetlands necessitates an individual ACOE permit. It is anticipated that less than 0.1 acres of tidal wetland will be affected.

**Noise:** The Department's Office of Environmental Planning has determined that there are two locations within the project limits that warrant consideration for noise abatement. These locations were previously listed on the State's original noise barrier retrofit program list. Based on the public hearing meeting and property owner's letters, the Department is eliminating the originally proposed noise barrier wall adjacent to Sidney Street in Stratford on the basis of the unanimity of the adjacent owners desire to eliminate the noise barrier. Enclosed for your records is the letter signed by the three property owners on Sidney Street that oppose the installation of the noise barrier wall at this location. The following is the list of property owner's name and addresses that oppose the noise barrier wall:

1. Mr. J Robert Osborne  
Vice President - The Dock, Inc.  
955 Ferry Boulevard  
P.O. Box 368  
Stratford, Connecticut 06615
2. Mr. John Barrett  
Barrett Outdoors Communications, Inc.  
28 Sidney Street  
Stratford, Connecticut 06615
3. Mr. George Brown  
25 Sidney Street  
Stratford, Connecticut 06615

Due the property owner's opposition to the noise barrier wall, the Department will obtain a caveat through the Town for each of the affected property owners. The caveat will stipulate the property owner's opposition to the installation of the noise barrier wall and the release of the right to have noise abatement consideration in the future. The caveat will be placed on each of the property owner's deeds.

The noise barrier wall adjacent to the Elbon Street neighborhood in Milford will be installed. The standard specification, Article 1.10.05 for construction noise, will be used during construction.

**REQUEST FOR DESIGN APPROVAL:**

Functional Classification:	Urban Principal Interstate
Classification by Type	
Of Area:	Built-up
Federal-Aid Systems:	National Highway System
Roadway Configuration:	6-3.6 meter lanes with 3.6 meter (outside) and 4.8 meter (inside) shoulders
Design Traffic Volumes:	See enclosed ADT
Pavement Type:	Bituminous Concrete Overlay on Unreinforced Concrete
Control of Access:	Full Control of Access
Design Standards:	ConnDOT: "Highway Design Manual" AASHTO: "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways & Streets (1994)."

<b>Additional Information:</b>	<b><u>PROPOSED</u></b>	<b><u>DESIGN STDS. FOR PROJECT</u></b>
Design Speed (km/h)	90 km/hr	80-90 km/hr
Minimum Radius (m)	696-715 m	340 m
Maximum Gradient (%)	1.1%-3%	5%
Stopping Sight Distance (min. m)	136-146 m	135 m
Lane Width (m)	3.6 m	3.6 m
Inside Shoulder Width(m)	4.8 m	4.8 m
Outside Shoulder Width (m)	3.6 m	3.6 m

**Exception to Design Standards:**

Based on the classification and criteria, exceptions to design standards were granted for the following items:

1. Vertical clearance for Bridge No. 00133
2. Stopping sight distance for U.S. Route 1 and Route 130

**Public Utilities:** The following utilities will be affected:

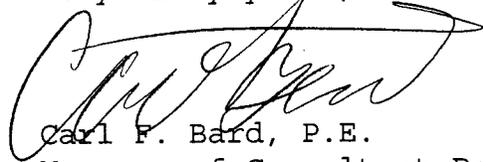
Metro-North Commuter Railroad - New Haven Line  
 A T & T Communications  
 Cablevision Systems of Southern Connecticut  
 Southern Connecticut Gas Company  
 United Illuminating Company  
 Southern New England Telephone Company  
 Bridgeport Hydraulic Company  
 Regional Water Authority  
 Town of Stratford - Sanitary Sewer

**Right of Way:** The proposed project will require one partial take. In addition, temporary construction easements and rights will be required from approximately four properties.

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** The estimated construction cost is \$122,000,000 exclusive of utility costs.

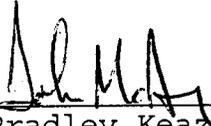
**Hazardous/Contaminated Materials:** The contract documents will include any necessary plans and specifications for the remediation of hazardous/contaminated materials as determined by the Environmental Compliance Unit.

Very truly yours,



Carl F. Bard, P.E.  
Manager of Consultant Design  
Bureau of Engineering and  
Highway Operations

Your concurrence is requested in our determination that the project be classified as a **C**ategorical **E**xclusion and also for Design Approval.

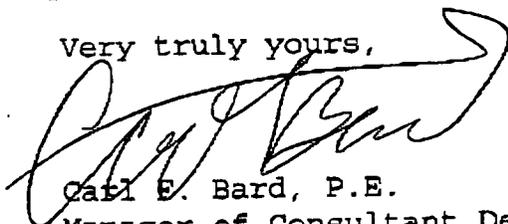
APPROVED BY:  DATE: 12/12/01  
*607* Bradley Keazer, Division Administrator, FHWA

Enclosures

Andrew Przybylowicz:pa *AXP*  
bcc: Walter H. Coughlin  
Edgar T. Hurle-Judith Cantwell  
Carl F. Bard-Thomas A. Harley *(10)*  
James E. Lewis-Richard Allen *(10)*

Hazardous/Contaminated Materials: The contract documents will include any necessary plans and specifications for the remediation of hazardous/contaminated materials as determined by the Environmental Compliance Unit.

Very truly yours,



Carl E. Bard, P.E.  
Manager of Consultant Design  
Bureau of Engineering and  
Highway Operations

Your concurrence is requested in our determination that the project be classified as a Categorical Exclusion and also for Design Approval.

*Carl E. Bard* 12/17/01

APPROVED BY:

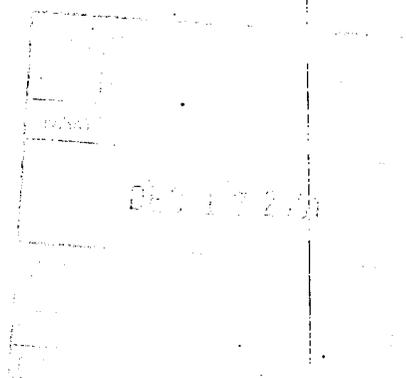
*[Signature]*  
for

Bradley Keazer, Division Administrator, FHWA

DATE: 12/12/01

Enclosures

- Andrew Przybylwick:pa
- bcc: Walter H. Coughlin
- Edgar T. Hurle-Judith Cantwell
- Carl E. Bard-Thomas A. Harley
- James E. Lewis-Richard Allen



Detailed Instructions for CE Checklist  
(Continued)

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

State Project # (Design): 138-221 State Project # (Construction): 138-221

Federal-aid Project # : MGS-95-1(169)34 Route/Road: Interstate 95

Project Manager: Julie Georges P.M. Phone Number: (860) 594-3348

Project Engineer: Andrew Przybylowicz P.E. Phone Number: (860) 594-3192

**Purpose and Description of Project (an attachment is acceptable):**

Description: This project consists of replacing the Interstate 95 bridge (Bridge No. 00135) over the Housatonic River commonly referred to as the Moses Wheeler Bridge. The related approach roadways to the new bridge will also be reconstructed by this project.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide a safer more efficient transportation facility.

Automatic CE <sup>1</sup> ?	YES(✓)	NO(✓)
1. Is this an activity that does not involve or lead directly to construction?	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
2. Is this an activity included in the ConnDOT's "Highway Safety Plan" funded by Highway Related Safety Grants (402 Safety Program)? .....	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
3. Is this for a transfer of Federal Lands when the subsequent action is not an FHWA action? .....	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
4. Does the project primarily consist of the installation of fencing, signs, pavement markings, small passenger shelters, traffic signals (LOS C or better), or railroad warning devices where no substantial land acquisition or traffic disruption will occur? .....	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
5. Does this project consist of emergency repairs under the Emergency Relief Program? .....	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>
6. Is the purpose of the project for the acquisition of scenic easements?.	<u>          </u>	<u>  X  </u>

**Detailed Instructions for CE Checklist**  
(Continued)

- |  |       |          |
|--|-------|----------|
| 7. Is this activity a determination of payback for property previously acquired with Federal-Aid participation? .....  | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 8. Is this project a ridesharing activity? .....   | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 9. Is this project a bus and rail car rehabilitation? .....  | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 10. Is the primary purpose of the project to make alterations to facilities or vehicles in order to make them accessible to elderly and handicapped persons? .....                               | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 11. Does the activity consist of program administration, technical assistance, or operating assistance to transit authorities? .....   | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 12. Does the activity consist of the purchase of vehicles where their use can be accommodated by existing facilities or by new facilities which themselves are within a CE? .....                | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 13. Does the project consist of track or railbed maintenance or improvements carried out within the existing right-of-way? .....   | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 14. Does this project consist of the purchase and installation of operating or maintenance equipment to be located within a transit facility and with no significant impacts off the site? ..... | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 15. Is this activity for the promulgation of rules, regulations, or directives? .....  | _____ | <u>X</u> |

→ If yes for any one of questions 1-15 and does not include any significant work in addition to the above, project qualifies for an Automatic CE. Complete the Summary at end of checklist and include checklist in project file.

→ If no for all of questions 1-15 or includes any significant work in addition to the above, project does not qualify for an Automatic CE. Complete question 16 below.

**Detailed Instructions for CE Checklist**  
(Continued)

**CE vs. EA/EIS<sup>1</sup>?**

16. Have there been any changes in project scope from when the Office of Environmental Planning recommended on the ConnDOT Environmental Review Form that the project be classified as a CE? ....              X  

→ If yes for question 16, resubmit to the Office of Environmental Planning for re-evaluation. Stop filling out the checklist.

→ If no for question 16, complete questions 17-32 below.

**Programmatic CE<sup>1</sup>?**

17. Public Involvement - Did the public involvement process generate substantial opposition to the project?.....              X  

18. ROW Use - Does the project involve the use of more than 10% of any parcel for permanent easement or fee taking?.....              X  

19. Relocations - Does the project require any commercial or residential relocations? .....              X  

20. Hazardous Waste - Are there any known Superfund sites within or adjacent to the project? .....   X             

21. Cultural Resources - Has the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) determined that the project will have a "no adverse effect" or an "adverse effect" on properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places? .....              X  

22. Section 4(f) - Does the project require the use of properties protected by Section 4(f) of the 1966 USDOT Act? .....              X  

23. Section 6(f) - Does the project require the use of properties protected By Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act?.....              X  

24. Wetlands - Will the Army Corps of Engineers require a Programmatic Category III Permit (Individual Permit)? .....   X             

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<sup>1</sup> See Detailed Instructions for further explanations of the questions and documentation requirements.

**Detailed Instructions for CE Checklist**  
(Continued)

- |   |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|
| 25. Floodways - Does the project have an adverse effect on a regulatory Floodway or base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a watercourse or waterbody? .....  | _____    | <u>X</u> |
| 26. Sole Source Aquifers - Does the project involve construction in or near A sole source aquifer? .....  | _____    | <u>X</u> |
| 27. Wild and Scenic Rivers - Does the project involve construction in, Across or adjacent to a river designated as a component or proposed For inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers? .....  | _____    | <u>X</u> |
| 28. Scenic Roads - Does the project involve construction on or adjacent To any State designated Scenic Road? .....  | _____    | <u>X</u> |
| 29. Noise - Is a noise analysis required? ..... <i>ASP (11/30/01)</i>   | <u>X</u> | _____    |
| 30. Air Quality - Are there NAAQS violations at <u>any</u> new or revised Signalized intersections? .....   | _____    | <u>X</u> |
| 31. Endangered Species - If construction is proposed in an area known To have populations of any federally listed endangered or threatened Species or critical habitat, is ConnDEP's conclusion that the project Will have an adverse effect on any of these resources? ..... | _____    | <u>X</u> |
| 32. Temporary Road, Detour, or Ramp Closure - Did the public Involvement process generate substantial opposition to the use of any Temporary road, detour or ramp closure? .....  | _____    | <u>X</u> |

→ If yes for any one of questions 17-32, project does not qualify as a Programmatic CE and an Individual CE approval from FHWA is required. Complete the Summary below and include checklist in the project file. See Detailed Instructions for format of Individual CEs.

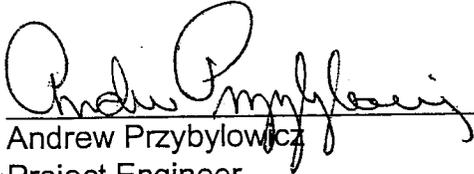
→ If no for all questions 17-32, project qualifies as a Programmatic CE. Complete Summary below and include checklist in the project file.

Detailed Instructions for CE Checklist  
(Continued)

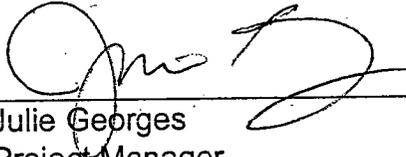
**Summary**

This project qualifies for the following type of Categorical Exclusion:

Automatic CE .....	_____
Programmatic CE.....	_____
Individual CE required.....	<u>  X  </u>

Prepared by:   
Andrew Przybylowicz  
Project Engineer

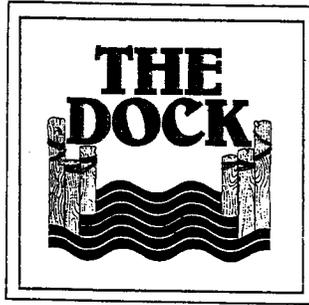
Date 9/12/01

Approval Recommended by:   
Julie Georges  
Project Manager

Date 10/17/01

Approved by:   
Carl Bard  
Manager of Consultant Design

Date 22 OCT 01



Ms. Julie Georges  
Project Manager  
CT Department of Transportation  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
PO Box 317546  
Newington, CT 06131-7546

10/24/01

RE: Sound Barriers on Sidney Street, Stratford

Dear Julie,

I appreciate your help in defining the slope issue on Sidney Street and I support your decision to install a retaining wall there.

There are only three property owners on Sidney Street. George Brown owns his own home at 25 Sidney Street. Barrett ~~Sign Company~~ owns the sign and property at 28 Sidney Street. The Dock Inc. and affiliated companies own the rest of the property on both sides of Sidney Street. **All three property owners oppose the installation of a sound barrier.**

Outdoor <sup>JEB</sup>  
Communications  
Inc.

The signatures of the three property owners below attest to the above stated position. Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thanks again for your professionalism in this and all other matters.

Sincerely yours,

J. Robert Osborne  
Vice President, Dock Inc.

George Brown for 25 Sidney Street

John Barrett for Barrett ~~Sign Company~~ Outdoor Communications, Inc., 28 Sidney Street

<sup>JEB</sup>

State of Connecticut  
Department of Transportation

subject: Project: 138-H030  
Bridge Replacement  
Milford/Stratford

memorandum

January 4, 1999

To: Mr. Thomas A. Harley  
Princ. Engr.-Consult. Design  
Bureau of Engineering  
and Highway Operations

From: Mr. Joseph Spragg  
Asst. Trans. Plng. Director  
Inventory and Forecasting  
Bureau of Policy and Planning

This memorandum is in response to the 12/29/98 request for current and projected 2025 traffic volumes on I-95 at the Moses Wheeler Bridge. I-95 at this location is classified as an urban principal interstate.

