

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 111-0119
Replacement of Bridge No. 00990 (US 44) over Wappoquia Brook
Town of Pomfret**

**February 16, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Pomfret Senior Center at Wolf Den Grange #61
207 Mashamoquet Road, Pomfret, CT**

Minutes

Present:

Julie Georges - Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
James Cavanaugh - CTDOT (Design)
David Cutler - CTDOT (Design)
Carl Nelson - CTDOT (Construction)
Derrick Ireland - CTDOT (Rights of Way)

John Eberle - Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), Project Manager
Andrew Lessard - Stantec, Project Engineer

James Rivers - Town of Pomfret, First Selectman
Maureen Nicholson - Town of Pomfret, Selectman

Presentation:

Mr. Cutler provided a brief introduction to the project including administrative aspects as well as overview of the project need:

Purpose of Meeting

- To inform public of the proposed project and allow interested parties to view proposed plans and ask questions regarding the project.

Project Goals

- Replace Bridge 00990
- Minimize disturbance and improve safety for traveling public
- Complete project in timely manner with effective use of funding
- Address above goals with consideration for surroundings

Reasons for Project

- Bridge is Structurally Deficient due to deterioration of the superstructure, which has resulted in an inspection rating of "poor"
- Bridge is Functionally Obsolete due to narrow roadway width

Mr. Lessard provided an overview of the proposed construction and technical details of the project:

Existing Bridge

- Constructed c. 1933

- Carries two lanes of Route 44 over Wappoquia Brook
- Average Daily Traffic = 4,900 (2009)
- 28' total length (2 spans)
- 25' overall width
- Steel stringer superstructure with concrete deck
- Widened to west with additional steel stringers
- Stone masonry abutments, steel pier located in brook

Proposed Bridge

- Three-sided precast concrete box culvert with 3-tube bridge railing
- Bituminous concrete overlay
- 12' lanes with 5' shoulders in each direction
- Horizontal and vertical alignment to remain essentially unchanged
- Bridge will be realigned (skewed) to better accommodate Wappoquia Brook flow

Maintenance and Protection of Traffic

- Close road during construction and detour traffic to west along Route 97
- Single stage will minimize construction duration

Environmental Impacts

- Located within FEMA Floodway
- Two state threatened special species and two species of special concern were identified, with only one (Wood Turtle) possibly impacted by construction. Provisions will be made during construction as determined by further investigation.
- No known contaminated or hazardous materials within project limits

Utility Impacts

- No known subsurface utilities
- Overhead wires to east of bridge

Rights of Way

- One anticipated permanent property impact required for construction
- Mr. Ireland gave a brief overview of ROW process

Project Cost

- Estimated Project Cost is \$2 million
- Bridge being replaced using 80% Federal and 20% State funds

Project Schedule

- Construction anticipated in Spring of 2014 and will last one construction season
- Schedule is predicated upon availability of funding, obtaining necessary permits, and receipt of necessary property impacts

Public Comments/Questions

No members of the general public attended the meeting. The following were comments/questions raised by the Town of Pomfret representatives.

- Selectman Nicholson asked whether the bridge construction and railings would have an impact to the existing stone pillar at the cemetery exit.

Response: It was explained that in as much as the actual replacement structure was shifting away from the drive (northerly) there would be no permanent impact to the pillar or cemetery property.

- Selectman Nicholson asked whether widening was being done to one side only.

Response: The widening was actually occurring to both sides of the road, maintaining the existing centerline of roadway. The existing profile for the roadway was being maintained as well.

- Selectman Nicholson asked whether or not the existing abutments were being removed.

Response: It was explained that the abutments were proposed to be removed as part of the project.

- First Selectman Rivers stated that there was a future sewer force main project that the Rectory School and Pomfret School were planning for this area. Based on his understanding it would entail a sewer main crossing at the bridge tying into Route 101 south of the bridge site. He thought that it was in the planning stages now and that the timeframe might be coincident with this project. He indicated that KWP Associates was handling the project and that they could be contacted for details. He questioned whether the bridge plans might be modified in final design to incorporate potential utility crossing.

Response: Stantec will contact KWP to inquire as to the status and details of the sewer project and potential incorporation into plans if needed.

- First Selectman Rivers felt that additional meetings with EMS or schools was not required at this time, and that from his perspective he did not note any significant public opposition or concern with the project. He will be in contact with CTDOT and Stantec should any issues or concerns be raised.

Adjournment:

First Selectman Rivers was provided the plan display boards, and will be provided with a copy of the Public Information Meeting PowerPoint Presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM.