

**Department of Transportation  
Project No. 93-166  
Replacement of Bridge No. 04324  
Route 175 over proposed New Britain/Hartford Bus Way  
Town of Newington  
Public Information Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Newington Town Hall  
131 Cedar Street**

**Presentation:**

A presentation lasting about 25 minutes was delivered by Mr. Joseph Cancelliere and Mr. Matthew Gillis concerning the proposed bridge replacement project. The design presentation was followed by a short presentation regarding the Department's Rights of Way process by Mr. Michael Marzi.

Approximately 12 individuals from the General Public attended the meeting with other Town and State Officials. The following items were included in the presentation:

- The project consists of replacing the existing deteriorated Pre-cast Box Beam structure with a precast concrete arch bridge. The new structure would be able to accommodate future improvements to the Route 175 corridor.
- The 3-stage demolition scheme was described showing how the removal of the box beams were to take place and how Route 175 will remain open to traffic during the demolition operation.
- The Right of Way process for acquisition of temporary and permanent easements was described in detail.
- The proposed start of construction would not be earlier than spring of 2011.
- Construction funding will be 80% Federal Highway Administration, 20% State Funding.

**Public Comments and Questions:**

- Question: Would releasing the transverse post tensioning cables cause a problem with the bridge? Answer: We do not anticipate any problems with the bridge after cutting the transverse ties. The bridge should be out of service within three weeks of releasing the transverse ties.
- One individual asked if maintenance work could have prevented the problem associated with the deterioration of the box beams? Answer: Not sure what contributed to the deterioration of the beams i.e. material failure or quality control problem during construction. The other 2 structures that were built at the same time along this corridor do not seem to have the same problems.

- A question was raised regarding the ability of the proposed bridge to accommodate light rail service. Answer: We are going to look into that as our design progresses. We are unsure at this time.
- Comment: Town Planner stated that the town has acquired the National Acme property north west of the bridge and the town is more than willing to allow the contractor to use it for his operations
- Question: Are you going to be lowering the profile of Route 175? Answer: We are not lowering the profile of Route 175 as part of this project. However, the proposal will accommodate the future improvements to the Route 175 corridor including lowering of Route 175 up to five (5) feet.
- Question: When was the project first initiated and is there any chance of failure? Answer: There is no chance of failure. Our Bridge Safety and Evaluation Unit conducted a load rating analysis eliminating the deteriorated steel strands and the structure is still capable of carrying all legal traffic loads. The project was initiated approximately late 2006.
- Question: Can Route 175 also be widened? Answer: Yes, our current design will allow for future widening of Route 175. We don't know exactly what is being proposed for Route 175, but we feel that we have provided enough barrel length to allow for future expansion. Also, if the barrel length isn't sufficient for future needs, the proposed structure type can be easily expanded without much difficulty by adding more arch units.
- Question: Are the arch units tensioned together? Answer: No there are no connections between arch units.

It was mentioned that the residents have until April 4, 2009 to submit additional written comments to the Department.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.