

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 87-142
Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00596
Route 68 over Route 8, State Route 710 (North Main Street),
Naugatuck River and Metro-North Railroad
Town of Naugatuck
Public Information Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Naugatuck Town Hall
229 Church Street**

Presentation:

A presentation lasting about 10 minutes was delivered by Mr. Bart Sweeney from the Department, Mr. James Mieczkowski of the Maguire Group Inc. and Mr. Edward Saki III of Close, Jensen & Miller, P.C.

The Deputy Mayor of Naugatuck, two individuals from the General Public, Maguire Group, Close, Jensen and Miller, and Connecticut Department of Transportation personnel attended the meeting. The following items were included in the presentation:

- The project consists of replacing the entire superstructure and repairing the existing piers and abutments of the existing bridge.
- The main reasons for the work are; (1) the bridge is structurally deficient and (2) there is insufficient underclearance for Route 8, as evidenced by minor collision damage.
- The 2-stage construction was described showing how the removal of the superstructure will take place and how Route 68 will remain open to traffic during most of the construction operations with the exception of 24 weekend detours and various off-peak hours which will require alternating one-way traffic over the bridge.
- The detour, entirely along state roads, will be implemented for approximately 24 weekends. The detour was described showing traffic directed to Route 8 south, taking exit 26 and following Route 63 to Route 68.
- The Public Utilities associated with the project were described and it was indicated that the Department has notified the appropriate utility companies of the scheduled project. Required utility relocations are anticipated to be conducted under a separate project in advance of the bridge rehabilitation project.
- No Right of Way acquisitions are anticipated for the project.
- The proposed start of construction is anticipated to be in the Spring of 2011 with construction completion in the Spring of 2013.
- The anticipated cost of the project is \$11,000,000 and funding will be 80% Federal funds and 20% State funds.

Public Comments and Questions:

- Question: Is the project going to affect taxes? Answer: No, the bridge is on a state route and there is no participation from the Town in the funding. However, aesthetic enhancements to the project that are requested by the Town would require Town participation in the funding. The Department will work with the Town on the lighting and other aesthetic features which may be proposed.
- Question: There is a graffiti problem on the existing bridge now and will the Department address this problem with the new structure? Answer: The Department is currently determining the best way to address the existing graffiti problem on the bridge and is considering having Maintenance remove the graffiti prior to the start of the project. If the graffiti removal was included in the project it may require a permit for work within the floodplain. The Department will do whatever it can to address the problem.
- Comment: The Deputy Mayor had concern with the proposed detour and bridge closure during off-peak hours because there are two schools, one public (Prospect Street School) and one parochial (Saint Hedwig School) within close proximity to the project. The parochial school does not follow the public school schedule and has a half day on the first Friday of the month. Response: A meeting will be scheduled with both schools to discuss school and bus schedules. The Department will coordinate the scheduling of detours and may include in the contract that off-peak lane closures are prohibited on Fridays. District Construction will coordinate with the school and Town during construction.
- Question: Has the Department met with the Town Police Chief with regard to the use of police for traffic control? It was stated that there has been an issue with overtime in the past. Answer: If police are required for traffic control they will be hired through the project and the cost will be part of the project.
- Question: How is the 24 weekend detour going to work over the two year timeframe of the project? Is it going to be 24 weekends in a row? Answer: The construction season is April 1 through December 1 and there will be 12 weekend detours per construction season. That doesn't mean there will be a detour immediately beginning April 1 because there is prep work that needs to be completed first. However, following the prep work it is envisioned that there will be six sequential weekend detours for the demolition of the existing structure (6 spans). Then there will be a break in the detour for 2-3 months for the substructure modifications. There will be no detours during holiday weekends.

- Question: Does the Department foresee any anticipated problems with the bid which may cause the project to be pushed out? The Town currently has a bridge project on Maple Street which has been delayed because the bids came in over budget. Answer: The Department does not foresee any problems with the bidding of the project which may cause a delay. The current schedule is preliminary, but as the project moves forward a firmer schedule will be developed. The Department will coordinate the construction of this project such that a vehicle traveling the detour does not cross over or through other ongoing construction projects.
- Comment: The Deputy Mayor wanted to make sure that the Police Chief is pulled into the project and is aware of the proposed detour and doesn't have a problem with it. Response: The Department will make sure that the Police Chief is contacted and aware of the project. The Fire Chief is aware of the project and does not have a problem with the detour as long as he is aware of it ahead of time so as to plan alternate routes.
- Question: Are there going to be any more follow up meetings? Answer: The Department generally does not do any other Public Information Meetings unless a project changes. However, any questions can be directed to the Department for answers. The Deputy Mayor indicated that she would present the project at the next meeting of the Burgesses. A hard copy and electronic copy of the presentation were given to the Deputy Mayor for the Town's use. The Department indicated that once the job is in construction notification and public outreach will be done at that time.

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