

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 102-317
Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00718, Route 15
(Merritt Parkway) over the Silvermine River
City of Norwalk**

**January 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Norwalk City Hall Room A330
125 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut
*Minutes***

Present:

Julie F. Georges – Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Mary E. Baker – CTDOT (Design)
Joseph Sorcinelli – CTDOT (Construction)
William R. Stark – Close, Jensen and Miller, PC. (CJM)
Brian Sweeney – City of Norwalk Public Works
Approximately 10 residents and interested persons

Presentation:

Mary Baker opened the meeting and described the following:

- Purpose of Meeting
 - Follow-up to Public Information Meeting of June 30, 2009.
 - CTDOT conducted additional testing on the deck of the existing bridge. (Ground Penetrating Radar).
 - Based on results of the subsequent investigations CTDOT is proposing a reduced Scope of Work for the bridge rehabilitation project.
- Project Goals
 - Rehabilitate Bridge No. 00718.
 - Minimize disturbance to traveling public.
 - Complete construction in a timely manner.
 - Effectively use funds.
 - Consideration for context sensitive design solutions.
- Existing Bridge Description
 - 3-span Multi-Beam Structure, built in 1958.
 - Carries 2 lanes of Route 15 traffic in both the North and Southbound directions (Est. Average Daily Traffic of ~ 71,000 vehicles).
 - Located between the Silvermine Avenue overpass to the west and the Route 7 interchange to the east.
 - Span length of 203 feet.
 - Curb to curb width approximately 28 feet (each direction).
- Reasons for Project
 - Structurally Deficient Bridge
 - Poor condition of concrete deck
 - Localized deterioration of the existing paint system.

William Stark described the proposed construction:

- Rehabilitation of existing concrete deck.
 - Milling to remove existing bituminous overlay.
 - Full and partial depth patching of the concrete deck as needed.
 - Installation of Cathodic protection system to arrest the corrosion potential in the deck.
- Cleaning and Painting of the ends of the steel beams.
- Replacement of the steel beam supports (bearings).
- Maintenance and Protection of Traffic.
 - One lane of Traffic each direction during construction work period. Two lanes during all other times.
 - Night time operations required.
 - Work period approximately between 8:00 P.M. to 5:30 A.M.
 - All work to be accomplished from above.
 - No access from Silvermine River below.
 - No Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Permits required.

Mary Baker concluded the presentation with the following discussion:

- Right of Way (R.O.W.).
 - Based on the extensive ROW of Route 15, no impacts to private property due to the proposed construction will be required.
- Project Cost
 - Estimated to cost \$2,300,000.
 - Federal Funding at 80%.
 - State Funding at 20%.
 - No Local Funding required.
- Project Schedule
 - Start of Construction Spring 2012.
 - Completion of Construction Fall 2012.
 - Predicated on availability of Funding.

Public Comments and Questions:

- The representative from the City of Norwalk Public Works Department advised the CTDOT that the City has a noise ordinance.
 - CTDOT responded that they also have a maximum allowable noise threshold of 90 decibels which the Contractor will be held to.
- Mr. Lee Levey, President of the Norwalk Association of Silvermine Homeowners (NASH) commended the CTDOT on their reconsideration of the project scope of work and the use of modern technology to increase the

service life of the existing deck on the bridge. He further asked if the CTDOT would consider the use of "Sound Curtains" to reduce the noise levels from the construction activities.

- CTDOT representatives thanked Mr. Levey for his comments and said they would take his recommendation under advisement.
- Various other comments from the attendees, surrounded the availability of the Construction funds, and the length of time the noise levels would be excessive due to the construction.
 - CTDOT advised that funding for the project was under the Federal Highway Bridge Program which is funded annually and that the project is included on the list of projects in that program (i.e. no Special Federal Funding appropriation is required).
 - CTDOT responded that the noise levels from the deck work would be dependent upon the amount of deterioration discovered when the bituminous overlay is removed, exposing the top of the concrete deck for inspection and delineation of the deteriorated areas. CTDOT will strive to repair the areas in the summer months when tree screening will assist in providing some noise abatement.

Adjournment:

The project was acknowledged by all present as being needed and being proposed in the least intrusive manner possible for the neighborhood residents. The CTDOT thanked those present for their participation stating that they would be kept informed of the progress of the project through the Engineering Division of Public Works as all interim design submissions would be forwarded to the City Engineer for information and comments.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M.