

Department of Transportation

Town of Westbrook
Project 310-0022
Westbrook Shore Line East Railroad Station

Public Information Meeting Held at
Westbrook Town Hall
866 Boston Post Road
Westbrook, Connecticut
February 22, 2011

Minutes

Present:

CTDOT

Scott A. Hill, PE – Manager of State Design

Theodore Nezames, PE – Principal Engineer – Facilities Design

Amy Martinez – Supervising Property Agent

Bruce Olmstead, PE – Project Engineer

Baker Engineering NY, Inc.

David Tudryn, AIA NCARB Project Manager

Presentation:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Mr. Bruce Olmstead provided a brief overview of the project. Mr. David Tudryn of Baker Engineering NY Inc. then presented specific elements of the intended construction and a brief discussion on construction sequence. The formal presentation ended with a discussion of project schedule including the intent to start construction in the fall of this year. Following the presentation was an informal question and answering period.

Public Comments and Questions:

Concerns were raised about the lack of a sidewalk beginning at the south side of the station, turning left along Norris Avenue out to Route 153 Essex Road, and then crossing Essex Road to connect to the sidewalk on the east side of Route 153. This concern for a south side sidewalk would be investigated to determine warrants for a future project. The presenter showed that a new sidewalk from the north platform to Route 153 was to be part of this project.

A discussion regarding the merits of a tunnel over the proposed up and over pedestrian bridge was tabled until after the presentation. The designer and project engineer noted that cost and construction techniques needed to maintain AMTRAK service, precluded the use of a tunnel.

Stage construction was discussed to address concerns regarding use of the station during construction. It was noted that parking is to be maintained at current levels and the number of parking spaces increases as each major phase of construction is completed.

One citizen who identified himself as a rail passenger asked if the facility was to be heated. He was informed that the station will have three sided shelters to provide refuge for passengers waiting for a train.

As part of the project, the Town of Westbrook Department of Public Works Building will be demolished. A citizen inquired as to the timeframe for DPW to move. It was reported that the Town was going to be off of this site by the end of the summer, to support the new station construction.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.