

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 82-298
Replacement of Bridge No. 02190
Route 17 over Long Hill Brook
City of Middletown**

**January 11, 2012, at 7:00 PM
Middletown City Hall, Room 208**

Minutes

Present:

Scott Hill, Lou Bacho, Mary Baker, Mike Marzi (CTDOT)
Tom Ryan, Mark Levesque (Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C.)
Middletown Public Works Commission
Local Residents and Business Owners

Presentation: Mary Baker presented the general guidelines of the project including the factors leading to the need for replacement of the bridge. Mark Levesque presented the technical aspects of the project with regards to the design and construction including the maintenance and protection of traffic required. The scheme presented in the preliminary design involves three stages of construction with one lane of traffic maintained in each direction of Route 17 throughout construction. Mike Marzi spoke to the property acquisitions required and the procedure involved. Mary Baker closed the presentation with the approximate cost and anticipated project schedule.

Public Comments and Questions:

Those commenting were:

- A resident commented on the need for a temporary sidewalk during construction and a permanent sidewalk on the proposed structure.

Response: Mary Baker responded that a temporary pedestrian bridge would be installed east of the bridge during construction. The proposed bridge includes a permanent sidewalk on the east side of the structure.

- A resident questioned the impacts of traffic on Coleman Road entering Route 17 during construction.

Response: Mary Baker responded that although the plans show only left turns would be restricted during construction, CTDOT's Traffic unit recently recommended that Coleman Road be closed at Route 17 during construction due to the proximity of the road to the construction project.

- Several residents questioned whether a left turn lane on Route 17 Southbound for Coleman Road or a widened shoulder for southbound traffic could be included with the project to allow vehicles travelling southbound to pass vehicles turning left onto Coleman Road.

Response: Mark Levesque responded that due to the alignment of Long Hill Brook with respect to the road, the only way to widen the southbound shoulder would be to shift the centerline of the road to the east. Tom Ryan added that this would be investigated and if the geometry of the roadway allows for a widened shoulder on the southbound side, then it will be added to the project. A separate left turning lane does not appear to be feasible due to site constraints, but a widened southbound shoulder is a possibility.

Note: Mary Baker noted that CTDOT was exploring the possibility of using accelerated bridge construction at this site. She explained that this would involve closure of Route 17 to all vehicular traffic at the site over a weekend and using city roads to detour Route 17 traffic. The actual detour would be approved by the City of Middletown's Traffic Authority. Ancillary work would be completed prior to and after the closure, but the Route 17 closure would only occur over one summer weekend during which the majority of the bridge would be replaced. Tom Ryan mentioned that since the project duration would be greatly reduced, the cost for the project would also be reduced. This alternate construction scheme was generally well received by those in attendance and would be further investigated. This plan will be presented to the City of Middletown's Department of Public Works upon completion.

Adjournment: Approximately 8:30 PM