

**Public Comments and Questions:**

Mr. Arthur L. Desorbo, read a written statement on behalf of the Mayor, Honorable Joseph Maturo, Jr., expressing the Town's concern that the replacement of Bridge No. 01665 would irreparably harm the historical significance that the bridge holds to their Town, and that complete replacement of this bridge will cause the Town to take whatever steps it can to oppose this project.

Several residents, including the Town's historical society, were opposed to the replacement of the historical arch bridge, Bridge No. 01665. The Department responded that according to the bridge study report conducted by BL Companies, rehabilitation of this bridge was not considered because of the extensive mortar deterioration in the stone masonry, the extensive surface spalls in the reinforced concrete bridge section, as well as an insufficient hydraulic opening. However, the Department also stated that due to the amount of public interest and concern regarding the replacement of this bridge prior to this public informational meeting, the Department would explore the feasibility of rehabilitating this bridge.

Local business owners expressed their discontent with the proposed detour. This detour would be in place for approximately one construction season during the construction of the new bridge. These business owners stated that closing Route 100 (Main Street) at the bridge location will greatly affect their businesses and could potentially close their businesses down. The Department stated that with the detour, it is currently proposed to take one construction season to complete this project. However, if the bridge is to be constructed in stages to allow alternating one lane of traffic, then the duration of the project could easily double.

The proposed additional sidewalks on both sides of Route 100 were opposed by numerous property owners because it would add maintenance and liability responsibility for them. One property owner, who owns an assisted adult-living complex, also stated that the location of the proposed crosswalk at the intersection of Route 100 with U.S. Route 1 would be inconvenient for her residents and, would like an adult crossing to be placed in front of her property (just west of Bridge No 01665). The Department stated that the Town requested for this project to include sidewalks on both sides of Route 100 to accommodate pedestrian needs. Additionally, when new sidewalks are incorporated into a state project, the Department enters into an agreement with the Town for the maintenance of the sidewalks. The Department also noted that pedestrian crossing at a signalized intersection would be safer than a mid-block crossing on Route 100.

Property owners on Farm River Road expressed concerns regarding the flooding of Farm River onto their properties, including the additional water from the proposed profile change of Farm River Road. One property owner stated that he would like storm drains and catch basins to be installed. The Department stated that storm water runoff would be evaluated for this project.

One property owner commented that providing an eight-foot shoulder on U.S. Route 1 to facilitate right-turning vehicle movements into the Rib House is a good proposal, but may not be adequate because it does not allow vehicles to be clear of the through travel lane. He requested that the Department increase the shoulder width to 10-12 feet. The Department stated that this request would be reviewed.

A local school bus driver and others in attendance stated that Route 100 (Main Street) should not be narrowed. They felt that reducing the pavement width would create issues with bus operations and cars maneuvering in/out of driveways. The Department stated that the Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC), an independent organization that promotes the usage of bicycle, transit, and pedestrian access, conducted a study audit at the Park Place intersection because of a pedestrian fatality. The TSTC recommended that the Department investigate re-striping Route 100 to provide a 12-foot lane in each direction with wider shoulders. The Department evaluated the TSTC's study and restriped Route 100 as recommended, which left excess pavement that can now be removed.

One resident asked how the Department was affecting the Old Mill property. The Department replied that the parking lot of the Old Mill property would be affected, not the building. The existing driveway is proposed to be relocated across from Farm River Road to provide better sightline.

The public was informed that the project is in the preliminary design phase with final design plans currently scheduled to be completed by July 10, 2013. All attendees were informed that the Department can be contacted should they have any questions regarding this project.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:30 p.m.

More detailed information is available at the Department's Office of Engineering, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, Connecticut, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays. Anyone wishing to discuss the project may contact Mr. Timothy M. Wilson at (860) 594-3189 or by e-mail at [timothy.wilson@ct.gov](mailto:timothy.wilson@ct.gov) .