

**Department of Transportation  
Project No. 115-114  
Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00992  
Route 44 (Pomfret Street) over the Quinebaug River  
Town of Putnam  
Public Information Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 7:00pm  
Putnam Middle School, Auditorium  
35 Wicker Street  
Putnam, Connecticut**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Rabih M. Barakat – Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)  
Jon R. Hagert – CTDOT  
Gayende K. Martin – CTDOT  
Derrick Ireland – CTDOT  
Thomas J. Marshall – Kleinfelder  
John Blackburn – Kleinfelder  
Peter Place – Town of Putnam, Mayor  
Delpha Very – Town of Putnam, Director of Economic and Community Development  
Norman A. Bernier – Putnam Fire Department, Chief  
Daniel S. Rovero – State Representative, 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District  
Meryl Willett – Villager Newspapers, Staff Writer  
Mike Blackmer – WINY AM 1350, News Reporter/On-air Personality  
13 Residents

**Presentation:**

A design presentation was delivered by Mr. Jon R. Hagert of CTDOT and Mr. Thomas J. Marshall of Kleinfelder. Mr. Derrick Ireland of CTDOT described the Department's Rights of Way Process and the potential impacts to private property owners during CTDOT projects. The subsequent question and answer session was moderated by Mr. Rabih M. Barakat of CTDOT.

The following items were included in the presentation:

- Photographs showing the existing condition of Bridge No. 00992 (Pomfret Street Bridge) and its immediate surroundings
- Information regarding the history, type, function and geometry of the bridge

- Information regarding the scope, schedule, budget and cost of the proposed State Project to rehabilitate the bridge
- Preliminary Engineering plans showing the areas to be affected by the project – on the bridge, as well as along its roadway approaches
- A plan showing the proposed detour route and a discussion of its benefits relative to alternatives entailing multiple stages of construction
- Ways to obtain further information about the project subsequent to the meeting:
  - Instructions for accessing an electronic version of the presentation via the CTDOT website
  - Contact information (name, email and telephone numbers) for CTDOT personnel responsible for delivering the project

### **Public Comments and Questions**

**Q: A question was posed regarding the need for the Department to acquire private property to advance the project.**

A: It was explained that during the construction phases of bridge projects, contractors often need to access not only bridges themselves, but areas in their immediate vicinity to efficiently maneuver and/or store equipment and materials. The design phase of this project will identify temporary rights as well as permanent rights needed to perform the work.

**Q: Clarification was sought as to the need for a proposed “Siren Detector” at the intersection of Church Street and Pomfret Street per a plan sheet prepared by Kleinfelder as part of their 30 percent design submission for review.**

A: A video detector will likely be used to control the traffic signal at this intersection during the detour. The stop bars on Church Street and on Pomfret Street will be set back from the intersection to allow trucks to make the turn through the intersection. To ensure that the intersection is clear for emergency vehicles, the signals will also be designed with pre-emption so that emergency vehicles may clear traffic from both directions before passing through the intersection. Also being considered is stationing a traffic policeman at the intersection during peak hours with a manual signal control device to ensure the smooth flow of traffic at those times.

**Q: It was asked how the current lane configuration along Kennedy drive’s northbound approach (to its intersection with Route 44) stood to be impacted by the proposed detour. In particular, the left turn lane that currently facilitates traffic flow across the bridge.**

A: Two options are being considered to address the left turn lane onto Pomfret Street westbound:

1. Closing the lane with barrels during the detour
2. Converting the left turn lane to a straight through lane and making the current straight/right turn lane an exclusive right turn lane.

**Q: It was asked how vehicles transporting wide and/or oversized loads would be handled during the proposed detour.**

A: It was explained that there is an office within the Department responsible for specifying overweight and oversized load permit routes, and that all such requests would be evaluated by that office.

**Q: It was asked if there will be additional signals placed at or near the intersection of Bridge Street and Church Street to prevent foreseeable congestion.**

A: Yes. Signals are being considered.

**Q: It was asked if the “island” at the intersection of Church and Bridge Streets would be removed to provide a more adequate turning radius for truck traffic.**

A: Designers responded that modifying the intersection remains an option but more information about its original design and intended purpose needs to be gathered before a final decision can be made. Currently, truck traffic will be detoured to Route 171 because of the geometry of this intersection.

**Q: It was requested that consideration be given to the heavy flow of traffic (employees, patients...etc.) to and from Day Kimball Hospital, which is just to the west of the bridge.**

A: The concern was duly noted and assurance given that the Hospital’s needs would continue to be given consideration throughout the design process. Traffic volumes will be studied further and signal timing will attempt to maximize flow of traffic along the detour.

**Q: It was asked if the proposed work under the project would require any funding from the town.**

A: Assurance was given that the project would be funded entirely at the state and federal levels, and that absolutely no town funds would be outlaid.

**Q: It was asked how and when local residents would be made privy to the Department’s final design recommendations, particularly as they pertain to traffic control during the proposed detour.**

A: The Department responded that it would keep the town's officials apprised of design developments. Residents should contact their public officials with specific concerns. Adjustments will also be made to the traffic control plan during construction. The Department's District Construction office will address specific concerns during construction.

The Public Information Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.