

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 135-329
Replacement of Bridge No. 02600
Carrying Route 104 (Long Ridge Road) over East Branch of Mianus River
City of Stamford**

**April 15, 2015 7:00 p.m.
4th Floor Cafeteria of Government Center**

Minutes

Present:

Rabih Barakat – CTDOT
Kevin Blasi – CTDOT
Sarwat Basha – CTDOT
Jacob Platt – CTDOT
Robert Ike – CTDOT

John Miller II – Close Jensen and Miller PC (CJM)
William Stark – CJM
Anindya Chakraborty – CJM

Presentation: The presentation was opened by Mr. Kevin Blasi of CTDOT who described the purpose of the meeting and introduced the project team. Mr. Robert Ike of CDOT described the Rights Of Way process that will be followed for any properties affected by the project. Mr. John Miller II of CJM described the Department's proposal for replacement of the subject bridge using a power point presentation highlighting the following:

- Description of the existing 6 ft. x 8 ft. concrete box culvert and Route 104 roadway at the site.
- Condition of existing box culvert (poor).
- Department's Option #1 – Construct the proposed replacement structure by closing Route 104 to through traffic for a continuous three (3) week period while detouring traffic around the site on adjacent local roads.
- Department's Option #2 – Construct the proposed replacement structure utilizing multiple stage construction while maintaining alternating one way traffic through the site utilizing temporary traffic signals for a continuous time period encompassing two construction seasons.

Public Comments and Questions:

Ms. Gail Okun, a member of the City Board of Representatives (19th District), expressed concern for public safety on the local roads during the time the detour was in service as well as to the condition of the local roads being subjected to the

significant increase in traffic in general and truck traffic in particular. Ms. Okun stressed the need for City of Stamford police presence along the detour route during periods of peak traffic volumes.

A resident commented that Long Ridge Road has very heavy trucks that will damage the detour roads.

A resident suggested that speed limit signs should be posted along the detour routes.

The Department responded as follows:

- In regard to public safety along the local road detour routes, the Department committed to allocating sufficient funds in the construction contract to fund an enhanced local police presence along the detour routes and advised that the detour routes would be considered a part of the construction zone with applicable signage related to infraction fines being doubled.
- In regard to the condition of the local roads being utilized for the detour, the Department noted that a pre-condition survey of the detour route will be conducted prior to the detour being implemented and that a post-condition survey of the detour route will be conducted once Route 104 is re-opened to through traffic. If the post-condition survey reveals damages to the detour route not reported in the pre-condition survey, those damages to the detour route will be repaired as part of the construction project.
- The Department added that with regard to the proposed timeframe of the closure, the Project Contract will allow a three week closure of Route 104, and that timeframe will be linked to “incentive/disincentive” language whereby the Contractor will receive a monetary bonus for re-opening Route 104 to through traffic prior to the three week timeframe and will be required to pay per day penalties for re-opening Route 104 beyond the three week timeframe.

Mr. Thomas Lombardo representing the North Stamford Association, asked about potential noise citing the Department’s intent to allow the Contractor to work double shifts between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. continuous for a three week period while the detour is proposed to be in effect.

The Department responded that the Contractor is required to abide by specific noise limits, as dictated by the CTDOT standard specifications, and that there will be representatives of the CTDOT District 3 Office on site at all times during the construction activities. If complaints regarding noise levels are received the CTDOT inspectors will request monitoring of the site and appropriate action will be taken if the allowable noise levels are found to be outside of specifications.

There was a question as to whether the detour option would have less tree removal than the staged construction option. The Department responded that

the detour option would require far fewer tree removals because significant tree removal would be necessary in the staged construction option to accommodate the temporary shift of Route 104.

A statement was made by a resident that the staged construction option (no detour) could potentially bring larger traffic volumes to the roads of the proposed detour routes even if the routes aren't designated as a detour, since vehicles queued along Route 104 may look to bypass the alternating one-way condition to save commute time. This possibility would occur over a two year project, which is less acceptable than the additional traffic volumes along the proposed detour routes during the three weeks of the detour option.

There was discussion regarding the proposed one-way restrictions along the detour route for non-residents (i.e. – through traffic) and a resident noted that there are two access points north of Old Long Ridge Road that may be used to access the detour route that will send those users the wrong way along the route.

A comment was made that the roadway should not be widened at the bridge location because there is currently a vehicle speed and passing problem that may be exacerbated with the roadway widened at the bridge. The Department responded that the widening will only occur at the bridge and will not continue along Route 104. The widening is necessary to meet current Federal roadway design standards for lane and shoulder widths. The widening of the roadway at the bridge should not be an enticement for additional speeding and passing.

There was a question as to whether the passing zone at the bridge location could be eliminated. The Department responded that the possibility of eliminating the passing zone would be discussed with the Department's Office of Traffic.

A resident questioned how fire response with respect to hydrant locations would be affected when the bridge is closed. The Department responded that coordination with Stamford's emergency response services will continue so that any impact to response times is minimized or eliminated.

The consensus of the approximate 15-17 members of the public present at the meeting was that the short term detour inconvenience of the required construction project as outlined in option #1 was preferable to the longer term, two construction season disruption to traffic on Route 104 required by the stage construction of the project as outlined in option #2 since an increase in traffic on the surrounding local roads was inevitable in either case.

This position was endorsed by both the City of Stamford officials and the Department representatives present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.