



Environmental Monitor

*The official site for project information under
the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act
and for notices of proposed transfers of state land*

February 16, 2021

Scoping Notice

1. Notice of Scoping for Replacement of Bridge No. 04446 - Hop River Road over Hop River, Coventry and Columbia.

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

No notice for additional time has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Post-Scoping Notice

No Post-Scoping Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)

No EIE Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Agency Record of Decision

No Record of Decision has been submitted for publication in this edition.

OPM Determination of Adequacy

No Determination of Adequacy Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

State Land Transfer

No State Land Transfer Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

The next edition of the Environmental Monitor will be published on **March 2, 2021**.

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Notices in the Environmental Monitor are written and formatted by the sponsoring agencies and are published unedited. Questions about the content of any notice should be directed to the sponsoring agency. Inquiries and requests to view or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency.

Scoping Notice

"Scoping" is for projects in the earliest stages of planning. At the scoping stage, detailed information on a project's design, alternatives, and environmental impacts does not yet exist. Sponsoring agencies are asking for comments from other agencies and from the public as to the scope of alternatives and environmental impacts that should be considered for further study. Send your comments to the contact person listed for the project by the date indicated. [Read More](#)

The following Scoping Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

1. Notice of Scoping for Replacement of Bridge No. 04446 - Hop River Road over Hop River

Address of location: Hop River Road over Hop River, approximately 0.3 miles north of its intersection with Route 6 (Willimantic Road) and immediately downstream of the Hop River Dam.

Municipalities where proposed action might be located: Coventry and Columbia

Project Description: Bridge No. 04446 is a two-span structure that carries Hop River Road over Hop River at the Coventry and Columbia town line. Hop River Road is functionally classified as a Rural Local Road with a posted speed limit of 25 mph, and has an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume of approximately 258 vehicles. The existing structure is generally oriented in a north/south direction and carries one travel lane (stop sign controlled, one-way alternating) of vehicular traffic. There are no sidewalks on the existing structure.

The bridge, constructed in 1955 and rehabilitated in 1989 consists of two spans comprised of steel beams and a concrete deck supported by stone masonry abutments and central pier. The existing structure has been determined to be functionally obsolete due to its curb-to-curb width of 12 feet and the ADT of 258 vehicles per day. Due to the feasibility of rehabilitating the existing structure, it has been deemed eligible for replacement.

The proposed construction involves replacement of the existing structure with a new two-span continuous steel multi-girder and concrete deck superstructure on pile supported cast-in-place abutments and modified central pier. The proposed structure consists of two 65-foot clear spans with an overall length of approximately 134 feet. The existing pier will have minor masonry repairs and the concrete cap will be replaced with a new concrete prestressed steel cap to accommodate the wider superstructure. The proposed structure will be built on a new horizontal and vertical alignment.

The northern span of the proposed structure will be comprised of straight girders while the southern span will be comprised of curved girders to accommodate the improved horizontal curve located immediately south of the bridge. The proposed structure will be widened to two-lanes of traffic (one in each direction) and the curb-to-curb width will be increased to 24 feet. The widened roadway, additional travel lane and softened curve (190-foot radius) will eliminate the need for the stop signs on both sides of the bridge. Vertically, the existing flat profile will be changed to a 0.50% slope to promote sheet flow off the bridge during storm events.

Existing overhead utilities will be relocated to provide the appropriate clearance to perform the construction work. A stone veneer will be utilized on the endblocks and substructure elements to replicate the aesthetics of the existing bridge.

Construction duration is anticipated to be approximately 6 to 8 months. Hop River Road will be closed to vehicular traffic during construction, and a detour will be implemented during the duration of construction utilizing state and local roads. Access to adjacent properties will be maintained at all times during construction.

Project Maps and Photographs: [Click here](#) to view maps/aerials of the project area as well as photographs of the existing bridge.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **February 19, 2021**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a Public Scoping Meeting by sending such a request to the contact below. If a meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a Public Scoping Meeting. Such requests must be made by Friday January 29, 2021.

Written comments and/or requests for a public scoping meeting should be sent to (E-Mail preferred):

Name: Kevin Fleming, Transportation Planner
Agency: CT Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Planning
Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131
E-Mail: DOT.Environmentalplanning@ct.gov

If you have questions about the scoping for this project, contact (E-Mail preferred):

Name: Marc Byrnes, Project Engineer
Agency: CT Department of Transportation, Division of Bridges
Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131
Phone: 860-594-3489
E-Mail: Marc.Byrnes@ct.gov

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:

Name: Ms. Alice M. Sexton
Agency: CT Department of Transportation, Office of Legal Services
Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131
Phone: 860-594-3045
E-Mail: Alice.Sexton@ct.gov

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

If an agency is unable to publish a Post-Scoping Notice within six months after the comment period for scoping, the agency will publish an update with an action status and an estimate as to when a Post-Scoping Notice will be published. Such an update will be published by the agency at six-month intervals until the Post-Scoping Notice is published. [Read More](#)

No notice for additional time has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Post-Scoping Notice

A Post-Scoping Notice is the determination by a sponsoring agency, after publication of a Scoping Notice and consideration of comments received, whether an **Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)** needs to be prepared for a proposed State action. [Read More](#)

No Post-Scoping Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

EIE Notice

After Scoping, an agency that wishes to undertake an action that could significantly affect the environment must produce, for public review and comment, a detailed written evaluation of the expected environmental impacts. This is called an [Environmental Impact Evaluation \(EIE\)](#). [Read More](#)

No EIE Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Agency Record of Decision

After an [Environmental Impact Evaluation \(EIE\)](#) is developed, an agency will prepare a concise public record of decision, which takes into consideration the agency's findings in the EIE, and any comments received on that evaluation. [Read More](#)

No Record of Decision Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

OPM's Determination of Adequacy

After an [Environmental Impact Evaluation](#) (EIE) is developed, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will determine if the EIE is adequate. If not, OPM will specify the areas of inadequacy with reference to CEPA or the CEPA regulations and specify the corrective action required. [Read More](#)

No Determination of Adequacy Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

State Land Transfer Notice

Connecticut General Statutes [Section 4b-47](#) requires public notice of most proposed sales and transfers of state-owned lands. The public has an opportunity to comment on any such proposed transfer. Each notice includes an address where comments should be sent. [Read more about the process.](#)

No State Land Transfer Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

The Office of Policy and Management maintains a list of projects that have entered the CEPA process. It shows each project's status. The inventory can be found at <ftp://ftp.ct.gov/ops/CEPA/CEPA%20Project%20Inventory.xlsx>.

CEQ Contact Information

All inquiries and requests of the Council should be sent electronically to: peter.hearn@ct.gov.

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