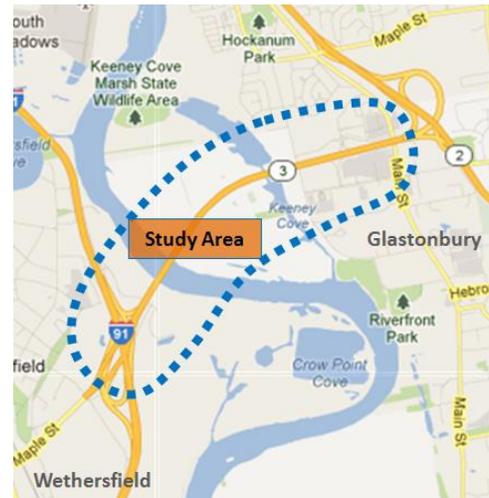


Overview

Rehabilitation of the Route 3 Putnam Bridge is scheduled to begin in 2013, and once complete, will provide a new walkway on the northbound side of the bridge to accommodate future bicycle and pedestrian travel directly between Wethersfield and Glastonbury. Because the scope of the rehabilitation project does not provide access to the new walkway from either end of the bridge, additional planning, design, and funding will be required to provide this access at some point in the future.

The purpose of the *Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail Connections Feasibility Study* is to advance the planning work for bicycle and pedestrian access to the bridge and evaluate how the new walkway can be connected to the network of existing (and planned) sidewalks, bike facilities, and transit services in both towns.

This feasibility study is being completed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation in cooperation with an Advisory Committee comprised of local and regional stakeholders. Members of the committee – who include representatives from Wethersfield, Glastonbury, East Hartford, Capitol Region Council of Governments, Goodwin College, and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups – will be actively involved in the development of the study and its recommendations.



Top: View of Putnam Bridge from Heritage Way Bike Path, Wethersfield.

Bottom: Study Area Map (from Google).

Study Area

The study area (see map) generally includes the Route 3 corridor between I-91 in Wethersfield and the Route 3 ramps at Glastonbury Boulevard in Glastonbury. The actual study limits will be a function of the alternative trail alignments and trail termini to be identified and evaluated for both sides of the bridge.

Preliminary Goals

Preliminary planning and design goals have been outlined for the multimodal trail connections to the walkway. These include:

- Maximizing year-round transportation and recreational utility by maximizing user accessibility, connectivity, comfort, and security.
- Minimizing impacts to environmental resources, private property, and existing infrastructure.
- Facilitating implementation by addressing community needs/priorities and fiscal constraints.

Study Scope & Schedule

The technical scope for the *Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail Connections Feasibility Study* includes:

- Reviewing multimodal accommodations and services.
- Identifying planned improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area.
- Compiling GIS data for existing environmental resources, topography, and physical features.
- Developing design parameters for the multimodal trail.
- Developing preliminary trail alternatives and assessing the potential benefits, challenges, impacts, and costs for each alternative.
- Working with stakeholders to select a preferred alternative(s).
- Documenting the study process and recommendations in a Final Report.
- Conducting community and stakeholder outreach throughout the study with at least three Advisory Committee meetings and a public meeting.



Top: Glastonbury Boulevard in the study area.
Bottom: Keeney Cove and Route 3 (from Bing).

The study began at the end of 2012 with existing data collection, field reconnaissance, and Advisory Committee selection. It is anticipated the study will continue through 2013 and will include the following milestones:

- **Late January 2013:** Advisory Committee Kick-off Meeting.
- **Winter/Early Spring:** Preliminary Alternatives Development.
- **Spring:** Advisory Committee and Public Meetings.
- **Late Spring/Summer:** Selection of Preferred Alternatives and Final Report Preparation.

Recent Study Progress

Initial data collection is nearly complete. Maps are being developed to illustrate site constraints and opportunities for potential multimodal trail connections in the area.

Preliminary planning and design goals and design criteria for the multimodal trail connections have been developed. These will be reviewed with the Advisory Committee for input.

Coordination is on-going with Advisory Committee members in preparation for a January 2013 kick-off meeting.



This shared use path is cut into the embankment along I-890 in Schenectady, NY. A path to the Putnam Bridge could have similar features along Route 3.