



Report of Meeting

Present: See attached sign-in sheets.

Welcome, Introduction & Ground Rules: Following welcome & introductions, Stephanie Brooks (Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.), Meeting Facilitator, reviewed the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) ground rules for continued membership and participation on the PAC and commitments of the project team. Ms. Brooks requested permission to make member contact information available to other members (email addresses only), to which no one was opposed.

Binders: Binders for PAC meeting materials were distributed, and the contents explained. Included in the package were a report of PAC meeting #1, provided to assist the PAC, but not subject to PAC vote/approval. The purpose of the project was reviewed with the PAC.

Update: Theodore Nezames (Connecticut Department of Transportation [CTDOT]) provided an update on recent reports and activities associated with the bridge and the proposed project and discussed concerns that have been circulating through public meetings, blogs, and other public forums. It was explained that each alternative would be weighed regarding how it best fits with the project Purpose and Need statement. The CTDOT clarified that they are not increasing capacity on the bridge. Any alternative presented in the Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Evaluation (EA/EIE) would be consistent with the bridge as it is now. For example: one lane currently crosses the bridge in each direction, therefore the alternatives will reflect one lane across the bridge in each direction.

Existing Conditions: Steve Harlacker (Hardesty & Hanover) explained the existing bridge conditions, structural condition rating, and detailed key concerns about truss condition and stability, pier condition, and bridge geometry as it relates to safety and truss damage. The "current condition" is the condition that is currently documented in the latest Bridge Safety Inspection Report. He also discussed the base flood elevation at the bridge and concerns related to roadway inundation and impacts of flooding on the operating system.

No-Build Alternative: Mark McMillan (CTDOT) presented the No-Build Alternative, explaining it is 'no change' from existing management practices or level of management intensity. The No-Build Alternative is a real alternative, and consideration of the No-Build is required by the National Environmental Policy Act/Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (NEPA/CEPA) process. Under the No-Build Alternative, CTDOT is obligated to continue maintaining a safe and operable bridge at this location. The frequency of maintenance projects to provide a safe bridge would likely increase over time, resulting in increased frequency of bridge closures to perform said maintenance. Further deterioration to the load carrying capacity of the structure may result in further restrictions to the larger vehicles crossing the bridge, such as buses and emergency response vehicles. Further explanation was given that this information, as with any given for each of the other alternates, is being provided not to sway opinion of any PAC members, but to paint a very real picture of what each alternative would involve and the likely impacts that would result.

Workshop: Stephanie Brooks asked participants to respond to two questions (see bullets below). Each participant was provided a sticky note to provide one response to each question. Responses are provided in the tables (attached) and were summarized and reported by Laurel Stegina (Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.) during the workshop.





**Project Advisory Committee Meeting
September 26, 2018
Westport Town Hall, Auditorium**

- Given the information you have about the existing conditions of the bridge, what is your greatest concern about the bridge *as it exists now*?
- Given the information you have about the “no-build” alternative, what is your greatest concern? *How will this alternative affect the group you represent?*

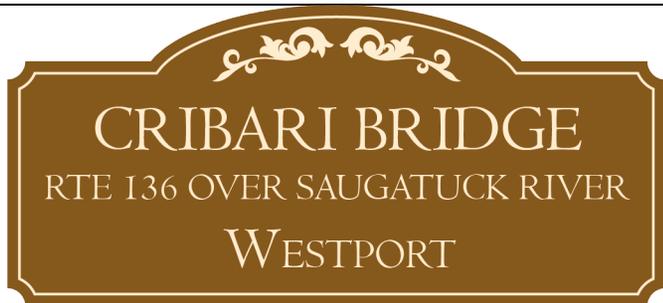
Next Meeting: The next PAC meeting is anticipated to take place in mid-November. Additional alternatives will be discussed at future PAC meetings. The workshop activity will be replicated for each alternative, with PAC member input requested. Alternatives will be evaluated according to how they meet the project Purpose & Need, and for impacts on the built, natural, and social environment. NEPA/CEPA requires that all reasonable alternatives are considered; a preferred alternative is not selected until after impacts from each are examined. Mitigation of adverse impacts will also be considered as part of the NEPA/CEPA process. PAC members were requested to coordinate with others involved in the groups they represent between meetings and provide any feedback not already discussed at the meetings, and that any additional questions or comments can be sent directly to the project team.



PAC Representative	Existing Conditions Greatest Concern	No-Build Greatest Concern
Bridgebrook Marina	Marine traffic Pedestrian safety	Weight rating or de-rating Marine travel still deficient
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation	Historic character of bridge & surroundings	Maintenance/repairs may not maintain historic character
DeStefano & Chamberlain, Inc.	Not in attendance	Not in attendance
Imperial Landing Homeowner's Association	Traffic and impact on properties	Frequency of repairs and closures required
Saugatuck Rowing & Fitness Club, LLC	Not in attendance	Not in attendance
Westport Boating Advisory Committee	Limited times to get a boat under the bridge	Limited ability to navigate under the bridge
Westport Board of Selectmen	Safe and effective traffic flow	Bridge deterioration would result in even greater load restriction or complete closure
Westport Chamber of Commerce	That its character is maintained	Loss of the bridge's character & purpose
Westport Fire Department	Weight restrictions	Reduced rating depriving fire truck use and extended response time
Westport Flood and Erosion Control Board	No comments	No comments
Westport Planning and Zoning	Traffic safety	Proper maintenance schedule
WestCOG	Vehicular safety Historic character	Impact to transportation network
Westport Police Department	Increased traffic, pedestrian/bike safety, commercial traffic	
Westport Public Works Department	Safety; structural integrity and safe traffic flow	Eventual deterioration to the point where the bridge will be closed or restricted; this will impact the public
Westport Representative Town Meeting	Aesthetic look; historical aspect; type of structure; traffic	Loss of historic preservation; "band-aid" effect; weight restrictions
Westport Shellfish Commission	Not in attendance	Not in attendance

PAC Representative		Existing Conditions Greatest Concern	No-Build Greatest Concern
Section 106 Consulting Parties	Bridge Street Neighborhood	No concern; should be maintained	My group prefers No Build; wants history maintained
	Green's Farms Association	Safety; State DOT has not repaired bridge deficiencies	No Build is our preferred alternative with commitment to maintain
	Historic Bridge Foundation	No comments	Cataclysmic failure; boat passage on river inhibited (affects downtown development)
	HistoricBridges.org	No comments	The importance of avoiding destruction of the ornamental trusses
	Historic District Commission	No comments	No comments
	Save Westport Now	Protection of residential neighborhood & small-town historic character & charm	No comments
	Westport Preservation Alliance	Conserving the original geometry of the bridge	Nothing! No adverse effect w/No Build – That is what we want! No Build!

SIGN-IN SHEETS



WESTPORT SIGN IN SHEET SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Attended	First	Last	Title	Organization
X	Sam	Arciola		Westport Police Department
X	Priti	Bhardwaj		CTDOT
X	Bob	Caporale		Imperial Landing Homeowner's Association
X	Andrew	Colabella	Member	Westport Representative Town Meeting
	Sarah	Connolly	General Manager	Saugatuck Rowing & Fitness Club, LLC
	Jim	DeStefano, P.E.	Resident	DeStefano & Chamberlain, Inc.
X	Steven	Edwards	Consultant	Board of Selectmen
	Francisco	Fadul		CTDOT
X	Tim	Fields		CTDOT
	Kevin	Fleming		CTDOT
X	Jeff	Fontaine		CMJ
X	Robbie	Guimond	Owner	Bridgebrook Marina
X	Kristen	Hadjstylianos		WestCOG
X	Steven	Harlacker		H & H
VIA EMAIL	Kitty	Henderson	Executive Director	Historic Bridge Foundation
	Randy	Henkels	Chair	Historic District Commission (HDC)
	Clarinda	Higgins	Chair	Westport Shellfish Commission
VIA EMAIL	Nathan	Holth		HistoricBridges.org
X	Bill	Kiedaisch	Chairman	Town of Westport Boating Advisory Committee
	Foti	Koskinas		Westport Police Department
X	Norman	Kramer		Green's Farms Association

X	Paul	Lebowitz	Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission	Town of Westport
X	Kim	Lesay		CTDOT
	Mark	Levesque		CJM
X	Werner	Liepolt		Bridge Street Neighborhood
X	Dick	Lowenstein	Vice President	Green's Farms Association
X	Matthew	Mandell	Executive Director and President	Westport Chamber of Commerce
X	James S.	Marpe	Selectman	Westport Board of Selectmen
X	Mark	McMillan		CTDOT
X	Ted	Nezames		CTDOT
X	Peter	Ratkiewich, P.E.	Director of Public Works Flood and Erosion Control Board	Town of Westport
	Tom	Ryan		CJM
X	Kurt	Salmoiraghi		FHWA
	Art	Schoeller		Green's Farms Association
SUB ATTENDED	Valerie	Seiling Jacobs	Co-Chairman	Save Westport Now
X	John	Suggs		Westport Preservation Alliance
X	Christopher	Wigren	Deputy Director	Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
X	Robert	Yost	Fire Chief	Westport Fire Department
X	Mary	Young	Director, Planning & Zoning	Town of Westport
	Name		Organization	Notes
X	L. Schine			
X	Morley Boyd		Westport Preservation Alliance	Alternate to John Suggs
X	Doug Odell			
X	Ian Warburg		Save Westport Now	Subbed for Valerie Seiling Jacobs