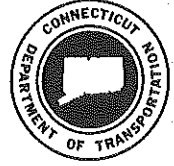




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Phone:

To: Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Monitor

From: Kimberly C. Lesay
Transportation Assistant Planning Director
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Bureau of Policy and Planning

Date: January 25, 2019

Subject: Barnum Avenue Railroad Station CEPA Notice Clarification

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) originally submitted to CEQ for posting in the *Environmental Monitor* a Memo of Findings and Determination (Memo), dated January 22, 2019, to close out the CEPA process for the proposed Barnum Avenue Railroad Station. That notification in the *Environmental Monitor* has caused some confusion as to the status of the project itself.

The intent of that Memo was to inform CEQ and the public that the project has been deferred in CTDOT's Capital Plan (2019-2023). Since no decision has been reached on a specific schedule to advance this project, a formal Record of Decision (ROD) will not be produced or published at this time. The Memo dated January 22, 2019 therefore is the mechanism to close the current CEPA process for the Barnum Avenue Railroad Station. There has been growing consideration to close out the CEPA process for projects that have remained open for a considerable amount of time without a concrete direction forward, such as the subject project.

The Department would like to clarify that the Memo was not intended to be a cancellation notice of the project itself, rather a closing of the active CEPA process that has remained open since the project was scoped in the *Environmental Monitor* on August 2, 2016 and the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) was made public on January 3, 2017.

Although the project has been deferred in CTDOT's Capital Plan, CTDOT will continue to work with the City of Bridgeport regarding avenues to advance the project. If the project is advanced in the future, CTDOT will initiate as appropriate, an updated environmental analysis and CEPA process at that time.