

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

Date: May 6, 2014

Project Name: Atlantic Street / Henry Street Intersection Improvements

Municipality: Stamford

Staff Contact: Mark Alexander

This assessment is being conducted in conformance to the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Environmental Classification Document (ECD) to determine Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) obligations.

Project Description:

The objective of this project is to improve traffic operations and safety at the Atlantic Street/Henry Street intersection. The existing western and eastern legs of Henry Street at the intersection with Atlantic Street do not line up opposite each other. The project includes intersection reconstruction and the replacement of signal equipment at the Atlantic Street and Henry Street intersection. Originally, individual elements of the project included the realignment and widening of the Henry Street west leg, the replacement of sidewalks and pedestrian ramps on three corners of the intersection, the complete replacement of all traffic signal equipment, and minor drainage improvements. Widening the west leg of Henry Street, however, would require the complete acquisition of 745 Atlantic Street, which is listed as a contributing structure to the National Register of Historic Places listed South End Historic District in Stamford. As required, a scoping notice was placed in the *Environmental Monitor* on January 22, 2013. Since this time, through continued coordination with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), the CT State Historic Preservation Office, the Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program, and the South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, the City of Stamford has revised the scope and redesigned the project to prevent the acquisition of 745 Atlantic Street, as noted in the attached concept.

The project has been redesigned to currently include the realignment and widening of the Henry Street east leg, widening of the north side of Henry Street west of the intersection, provision of exclusive left turn lanes on all approaches, the replacement of sidewalks and pedestrian ramps on each corner of the intersection, the complete replacement of all traffic signal equipment, and minor drainage improvements. Full depth pavement reconstruction will be completed in the widened sections of Henry Street while milling and overlay will be completed throughout the remainder of the Henry Street approaches within the project limits. The realignment of the east intersection leg will be accomplished via a full property acquisition and building demolition at 740 Atlantic Street on the northeast corner of the intersection. A small seven space off-street parking area will also be provided on this corner. The

widening of the north side of Henry Street west of the intersection will be accomplished within the City right of way but will require a reduction in the width of the landscaped area that currently exists between the edge of road and sidewalk.

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3 Determination of Environmental Significance (Direct/Indirect)

1. *Impact on air and water quality or on ambient noise levels*
 - a) *Air Quality* – No negative impacts are anticipated. This project is not considered regionally significant; therefore a project level hot-spot conformity analysis is not warranted.
 - b) *Water Quality*- No negative impacts are anticipated. CTDOT will ensure that the City of Stamford employ best management practices (BMP's) as the project moves forward.
 - c) *Ambient Noise Levels*- No negative impacts are anticipated.

2. *Impact on a public water supply system or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation*
 - a) *Water Supply* – No negative impacts are anticipated as the project area is not within a public water supply source water area.
 - b) *Groundwater* - No negative impacts are anticipated. CTDOT will ensure that the City of Stamford employ BMP's as the project moves forward.
 - c) *Flooding* – No negative impacts are anticipated. The proposed project is within Connecticut's coastal boundary as defined by section 22a-94 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). It is not expected that the project would result in any adverse impacts to coastal resources. The project is not within the 100-year flood zone on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map.
 - d) *Erosion or Sedimentation*- No negative impacts are anticipated. Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed require a permit pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26. The CTDEEP Permitting & Enforcement Division has issued a *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEP-PERD-GP-015) that will cover these discharges. For projects disturbing five or more acres, registration describing the site and the construction activity must be submitted to the CTDEEP prior to the initiation of construction.

3. *Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows* – No negative impacts are anticipated. There are no wetland impacts associated with this project.

4. *Disruption or alteration of an historic, archaeological, cultural, or recreational building, object, district, site or its surroundings* – The project initially included the demolition of 745 Atlantic

Street, a contributing building to the National Register listed South End Historic District. This would have constituted an “adverse effect”; however, the project was redesigned to avoid demolition of 745 Atlantic Street once the project stakeholders voiced their concerns. The redesign will include a full property take and building demolition of 740 Atlantic Street, which is not a contributing resource to the South End Historic District. Though the redesign will include a partial take of the property at 745 Atlantic Street, the building itself will not be impacted, and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CTSHPO) has concurred with CTDOT’s recommendation of “no adverse effect” to the National Register listed South End Historic District.

5. *Effect on natural communities and upon critical species of animal or plant and their habitats; interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species* – No negative impacts are anticipated. The Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) contains no records of any extant populations of Federally listed endangered species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern in the project area.
6. *Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact* - No negative impacts are anticipated.
7. *Substantial aesthetic or visual effects* – No negative impacts are anticipated.
8. *Consistency with the written and/or mapped policies of the Statewide Plan of Conservation and Development and such other plans and policies developed or coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management or other agency* – Since this action involves the development or improvement of real property whose costs are in excess of \$200,00, it is subject to the consistency requirement of the State of Connecticut Conservation and Development Plan of 2013-2018 (Plan) and its Growth Management Principles (GMP). In particular, this type of project supports GMP #1 (Redevelopment and Revitalize Regional Centers and Areas with Existing or Currently Planned Physical Infrastructure). In addition, the project is located in a Balanced Priority Funding Area as defined by the Locational Guide Map of the Plan. Therefore, the project is consistent with the written and mapped policies of the Plan.
9. *Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal and regional plans* - No negative impacts are anticipated. Extensive outreach was provided to community residents and area businesses, as well as historic preservation groups. This coordination was successful in redesigning the project in order to preserve the property at 745 Atlantic Street. Public information meetings were held on January 8, 2013, June 25, 2013, and August 8, 2013. These meetings were well attended and allowed the public involvement in the redesign of the project. Ultimately, the redesign was well received by the public as well as the elected local representatives.

10. *Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people* – No negative impacts are anticipated. The proposed project will require the acquisition and demolition of one property – 740 Atlantic Street. The City of Stamford will fund 100% of the acquisition and all right of way associated with this project.
11. *Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other)* - No negative impacts are anticipated. The purpose of project is to improve traffic operations and reduce congestion.
12. *A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of this action* - No negative impacts are anticipated.
13. *The creation of a hazard to human health or safety* - No negative impacts are anticipated. Any required testing for hazardous materials will be performed and remediated as necessary as noted in CTDEEP's comments.
14. *Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources* - No additional negative impacts are anticipated.

Conclusion:

After examining any potential environmental impacts, reviewing all comments received, and redesigning the project to avoid adverse impacts to contributing resources to the National Register listed South End Historic District; CTDOT has concluded that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation will not be required for the Atlantic Street/Henry Street Intersection Improvements Project.

Recommendations received by various State agencies as a result of the Scoping Process:

The Drinking Water Section of the DPH has determined that the project does not appear to be in a public supply water area, therefore they have no recommendations.

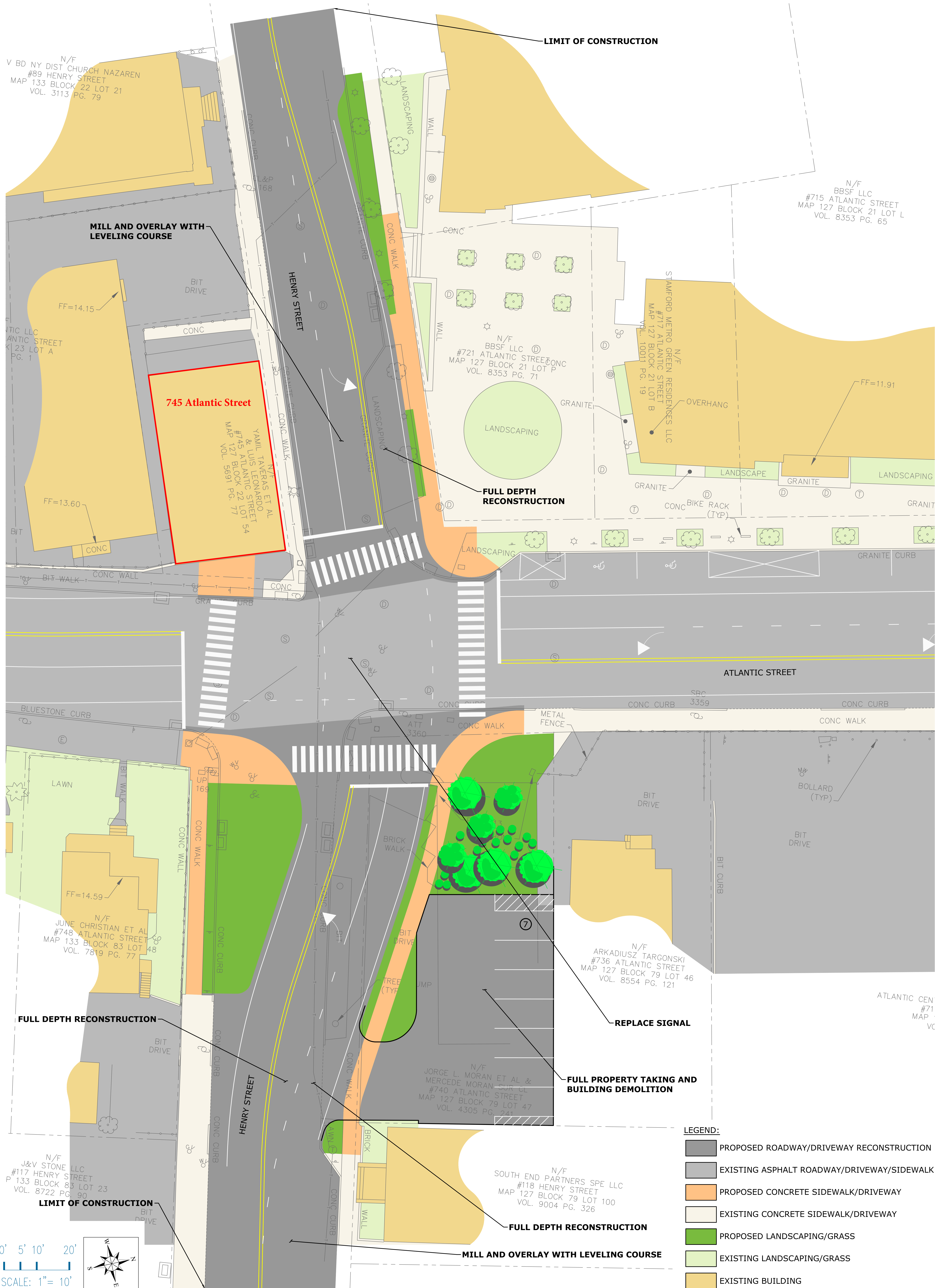
Originally, the CTSHPO and the HNPP voiced their concerns over the project since it would result in the acquisition of 745 Atlantic Street, a contributing resource to the National Register listed South End Historic District. After much coordination and public involvement, all involved parties were able to work together to redesign the project so it would not require the demolition of 745 Atlantic Street or any historic resource. Ultimately, the project was given a determination of “no adverse effect” from the CTSHPO.

The following recommendations were received from CTDEEP:

Development plans in urban areas that entail soil excavation should include a protocol for sampling and analysis of potentially contaminated soil. Soil with contaminant levels that exceed the applicable criteria of the Remediation Standard Regulations, that is not hazardous waste, is considered to be special waste.

The disposal of special wastes, as defined in section 22a-209-1 of the RCSA, requires written authorization from the Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division prior to delivery to any solid waste disposal facility in Connecticut. If clean fill is to be segregated from waste material, there must be strict adherence to the definition of clean fill, as provided in Section 22a-209-1 of the RCSA. In addition, the regulations prohibit the disposal of more than 10 cubic yards of stumps, brush or woodchips on the site, either buried or on the surface.

The Waste Engineering & Enforcement Division has issued a General Permit for Contaminated Soil and/or Sediment Management (Staging & Transfer). It establishes a uniform set of environmentally protective management measures for stockpiling soils when they are generated during construction or utility installation projects where contaminated soils are typically managed (held temporarily during characterization procedures to determine a final disposition). Temporary storage of less than 1000 cubic yards of contaminated soils (which are not hazardous waste) at the excavation site does not require registration, provided that activities are conducted in accordance with the applicable conditions of the general permit. Registration is required for on-site storage of more than 1000 cubic yards for more than 45 days or transfer of more than 10 cubic yards off-site.



MILL AND OVERLAY WITH LEVELING COURSE

LIMIT OF CONSTRUCTION

745 Atlantic Street

FULL DEPTH RECONSTRUCTION

ATLANTIC STREET

FULL DEPTH RECONSTRUCTION

REPLACE SIGNAL

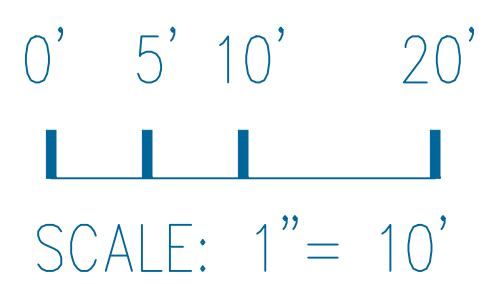
FULL PROPERTY TAKING AND BUILDING DEMOLITION

FULL DEPTH RECONSTRUCTION

MILL AND OVERLAY WITH LEVELING COURSE

LEGEND:

- PROPOSED ROADWAY/DRIVEWAY RECONSTRUCTION
- EXISTING ASPHALT ROADWAY/DRIVEWAY/SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED CONCRETE SIDEWALK/DRIVEWAY
- EXISTING CONCRETE SIDEWALK/DRIVEWAY
- PROPOSED LANDSCAPING/GRASS
- EXISTING LANDSCAPING/GRASS
- EXISTING BUILDING



F:\DWG\1998203\A20\1998203_A20.dwg