



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

December 16, 2022

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Paul Aresta
Executive Director

The Honorable Jeff Manville
First Selectman
Office of the First Selectman
501 Main Street South
Southbury, CT 06488

Re: Poverty Road Bridge, Southbury

Dear First Selectman Manville:

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) received the Press Release regarding the proposed bridge replacement project for the Poverty Road Bridge over the Pomperaug River in Southbury. The Council notes that the bridge is located within a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) buffer area and over a Fisheries Management Area. Consequently, the proposed project has the potential to impact fisheries resources, state-listed species, and inland wetlands. The Council also notes that a riverbank restoration project located downstream of the bridge was completed to address erosion. The Council recommends that the Town of Southbury and/or the bridge designers/construction company consult with DEEP's Fisheries Division and the NDDDB for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse effects on fisheries resources and state-listed species. The Council also recommends that the Town of Southbury and/or the bridge designers consult with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service – Connecticut regarding the potential impact the proposed bridge replacement could have on downstream erosion. Lastly, the Council recommends that the Southbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Department carefully review the proposed project, at the appropriate time, for consistency with the Town's Inland Wetland Regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

c:Marc Byrnes, DOT, Transportation Supervising Engineer
James Barrows, DOT, Transportation Engineer 3