



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

John C. Carrington, P.E., Director of Public Works

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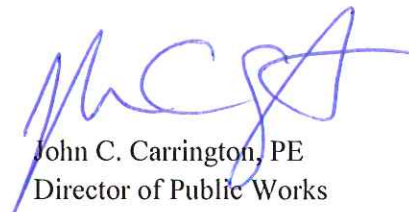
Mr. Mark W. Alexander, Transportation Assistant Planning Director
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Bureau of Policy and Planning
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

Mr. Alexander:

This letter is concerning the Public Scoping Notice for the Connecticut Department of Transportation Replacement of Bridge 02866 over the Willimantic River between the towns of Mansfield and Coventry. The Town of Mansfield Public Works Department has reviewed the proposed project and provides the following comments:

1. The notice of scoping indicates the existing bridge is hydraulically inadequate and will subsequently be raised to provide a minimum of 2 feet of under clearance. The Town is concerned about the removal of this possible hydraulic constriction and its impacts to downstream structures and property.
2. The 2011 Connecticut Department of Transportation Average Daily Traffic Counts approximately 3,100 vehicles cross the subject bridge. It could be assumed that the University of Connecticut is the likely destination for vehicular traffic on this stretch of roadway. The current proposal indicates that Route 31 to Route 32 will be the advertised detour. The Town of Mansfield is concerned the use of Depot Road / Coventry Road will be a preferred alternative because of the prevalence of GPS navigation and local residents having local knowledge of the roadway network.
3. As indicated in bullet number 2, the proposed detour is traveling south on Route 31 to Route 32. Utilizing the same assumption from the previous bullet, the increased distance traveled for vehicular traffic will be 4.6 miles per trip. Utilizing FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis values for additional detour time (\$38.15 per vehicle per hour), current IRS mileage reimbursement (\$0.565/mile) and the current construction schedule of five weeks of detour the economic impact for the detour is approximately \$500,000. The Town of Mansfield appreciates any means that can be utilized to accelerate the construction of the bridge and minimize the duration of the detour.

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Carrington, PE
Director of Public Works

CC: Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager
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