



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Intergovernmental Policy & Planning Division

March 30, 2022

Mr. Jason Vincent, Project Engineer
CT Department of Transportation, Bureau of Engineering and Construction
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131

Re: Notice of Scoping for Route 85 Improvements - South of Route 82, Salem and Montville

Dear Mr. Vincent:

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has reviewed this scoping notice and has two comments. First, OPM would like to highlight a potential concern regarding this portion of the scoping notice's project description:

The proposed work also includes the relocation of approximately 2000 feet of Route 161 from its present location to be realigned opposite with a local road named Deer Run. The new intersection of Route 85, Route 161, and Deer Run is proposed to be a single lane roundabout.

That aspect of the project would move the intersection of Rts 161 and 85 into or near drinking water watershed land of the nearby New London Dept. Of Public Utilities Lake Konomoc reservoir. DOT's control of project design and construction and future highway operations can mitigate direct threats to the public water supply, but DOT should thoroughly consider the potential for that new orientation to induce development incompatible with that reservoir and that might threaten the current or future water supply. This is doubly important due to uncertainties about future precipitation patterns and other changes that might impact the quantity and quality of public water sources as well as future demands for that water. DPH faced comparable issues in the CEPA review of the nearby New London-East Lyme water system interconnection and DOT might review how those concerns were resolved via local agreements.

Finally, please clarify whether the DOT or the Town of Montville will assume responsibility for the bypassed section of road. If DOT plans to retain responsibility, the post-scoping document should provide the estimated additional cost to the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Notice of Scoping and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Wittchen".

Bruce Wittchen
Office of Policy & Management
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