Study Overview

Putnam Bridge
Multimodal Trail Connections
Feasibility Study

Purpose

CTDOT is completing the *Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail Connections Feasibility Study* to **advance planning work for future shared use path connections** to the Route 3 Putnam Bridge walkway from Wethersfield and Glastonbury.

The walkway is currently being constructed as part of the Route 3 bridge rehabilitation project, but the scope of the rehabilitation project does not provide access to the walkway from either end of the bridge. This study is evaluating **possible alternatives** for the connections to the walkway; the study findings will provide a basis for future design of the connections.

The path connections and walkway would create viable commuting and recreational travel options for non-motorists in the area by providing a **new 1.3 mile link over the Connecticut River** between Wethersfield and Glastonbury.

Study Process

Data Collection & Research

Study Activities
- Review pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities and services
- Review available plans, studies, and mapping
- Conduct field visits to study area
- Identify environmental, utility, and other physical constraints

Stakeholder Involvement
- Advisory Committee Meeting
- Informational Webinar

Late-2012 to Early-2013

Alternatives Development & Evaluation

Study Activities
- Develop planning and design goals
- Develop conceptual design parameters
- Develop and assess preliminary path alternatives
- Refine alternatives and identify preferred alternatives

Stakeholder Involvement
- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Public Meeting

Early-2013 to Mid-2013

Recommendations & Documentation

Study Activities
- Finalize preferred alternatives based on stakeholder/community input
- Develop implementation and funding recommendations
- Prepare Draft Report of Recommendations for public review
- Prepare Final Report

Stakeholder Involvement
- Advisory Committee Meeting
- Public Review of Draft Report

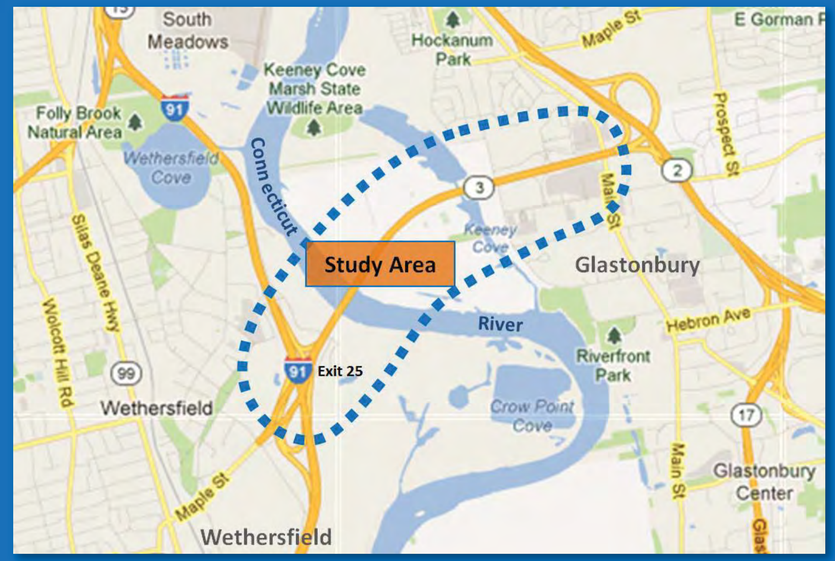
Mid-2013 to Late-2013

Stakeholder & Community Involvement is Key.

Stakeholder and community participation is an integral part of each phase of the study process. Your input tonight will:

- Help inform the study team about community needs, priorities, and concerns relative to the preliminary path connections.
- Help shape the final study recommendations.
- Help build community consensus for the future path design and implementation.

Location Map



Shared Use Path Overview

The path connections to the Putnam Bridge walkway will be designed as shared use paths (also known as multimodal paths). By definition, shared use paths are:

- Bikeways physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by open space or barriers.
- Used by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, joggers, wheelchair users, and other non-motorized users.
- Designed for two-way travel.

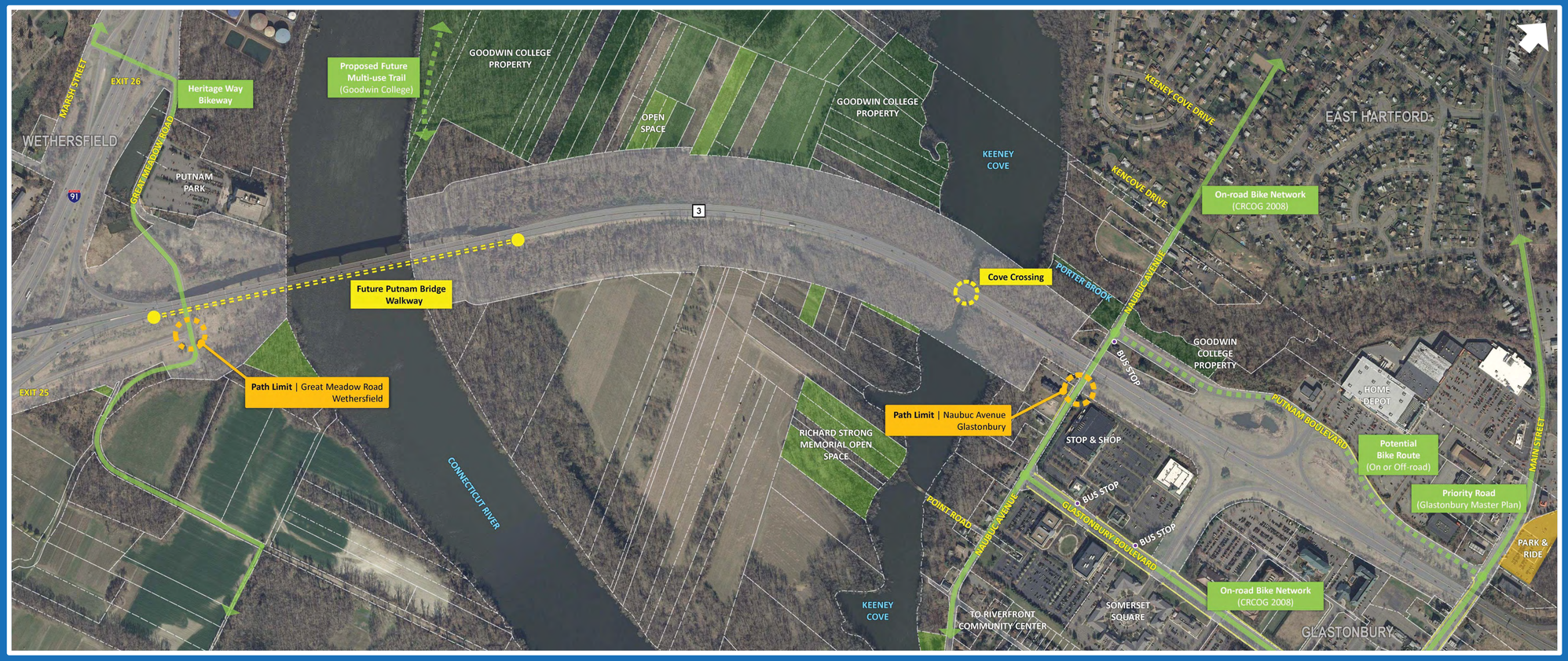
Local Examples of Shared Use Paths

Smith School Greenway | Glastonbury

Charter Oak Greenway | Manchester

Study Area & Context

Putnam Bridge
Multimodal Trail Connections
Feasibility Study



In general, the study area covers approximately 1.5 miles of the Route 3 corridor between I-91 Exit 25 in Wethersfield and Main Street in Glastonbury.

The proposed path limits, as determined through consultation with the Advisory Committee, are shown on the map .

A path connecting these points to the future Putnam Bridge walkway would create a new 1.3 mile long transportation and recreational corridor for bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized users.

Environmental Considerations

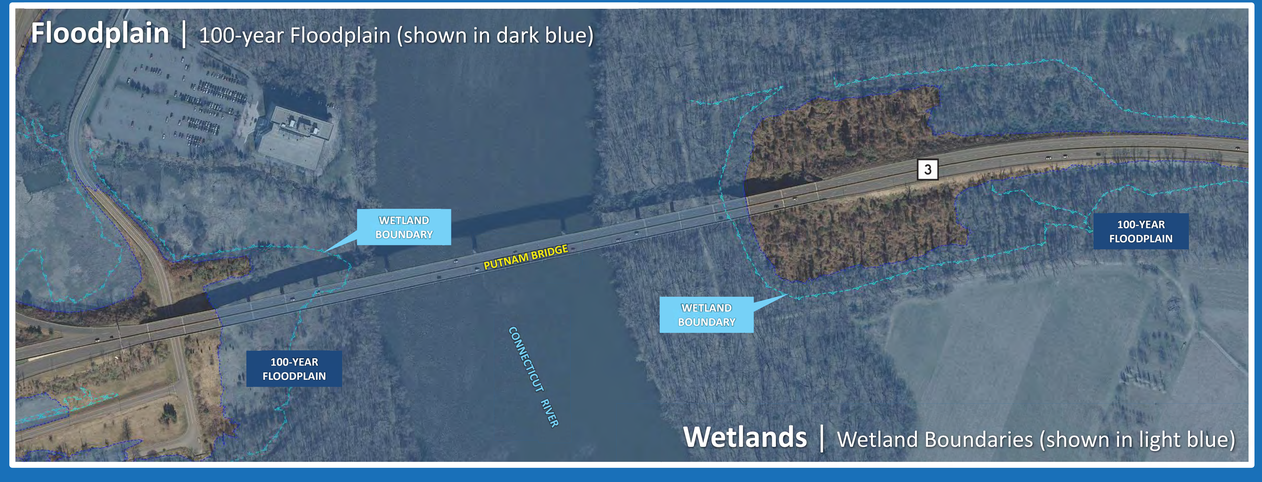
The number of feasible path alignments between Great Meadow Road and Naubuc Avenue is limited by several key constraints in the study area, including: Keeney Cove, the Connecticut River floodplain, and wetlands.

Connecticut River Floodplain

Minimizing impacts to the flood water storage capacity of the 100-year floodplain is an important regulatory consideration of this study. CTDEEP will allow no net increase in the amount of material placed in the floodplain as a result of path construction.

Wetlands

A path alignment that minimizes or avoids impacts to freshwater and tidal wetlands in the study area is beneficial for several reasons, including: maintaining natural habitats, facilitating regulatory agency approvals, and limiting mitigation costs.



Planning & Design Goals

Putnam Bridge
Multimodal Trail Connections
Feasibility Study

Maximize Transportation & Recreational Utility

The design of the *shared-use* path connections to the Putnam Bridge walkway should promote year-round use as a transportation and recreational facility by maximizing the following:

Accessibility.

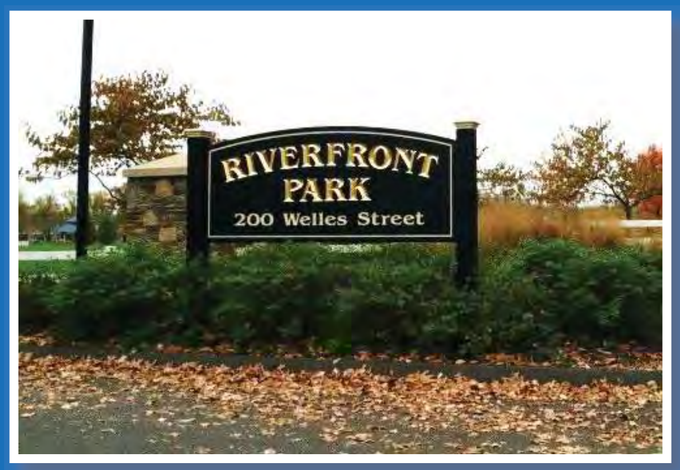
Incorporate design features that: accommodate a variety of users (bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters, etc.); provide ease of maintenance; and facilitate reliable passage throughout the year.

Connectivity.

Link the path to existing bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities; provide opportunities for future connectivity; and enhance access to other nearby community and recreational facilities.

Comfort and Security.

Create a comfortable user experience by mitigating the impacts of adjacent highways (traffic noise, road spray, headlight glare, etc.) and by providing measures to enhance user safety.



Minimize Impacts

The design of *shared-use* path connections should be sensitive to the context of the surrounding area by minimizing or avoiding negative effects on the following:

Environmental Resources.

Minimize the direct and indirect impacts of the path on wetlands, floodplains, natural habitats, and other resources.

Private Property.

Minimize the need to acquire rights or land from private property owners.

Existing Infrastructure.

Minimize impacts to existing roadways, bridges, and utilities.

Facilitate Implementation

The planning and design processes for the shared-use path connections should build community and regulatory agency support for the project, ultimately lending to its implementation, by addressing the following:

Community Needs and Priorities.

Respond to community input on the design and function of the path.

Fiscal Constraints.

Provide cost-effective design solutions while reasonably satisfying the other project goals. Consider a variety of funding and implementation mechanisms.

Agency Requirements.

Respond to regulatory agency input on the design and permitting requirements of the path to facilitate subsequent approvals.

What Happens Next?

Putnam Bridge
Multimodal Trail Connections
Feasibility Study

The *Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail Connections Feasibility Study* will be completed by the end of 2013. The main product of the study will be a detailed report that documents the development of recommendations for the path connections to the future Putnam Bridge walkway, complete with construction cost estimates and guidance for implementation.

Once the study is complete, it will likely be several years or more before the path connections are open for use. The general steps and the approximate timeline for what happens next are outlined below.

Timeline

1. **Complete Feasibility Study** — 2013
2. **Program/Initiate Project(s)**
3. **Secure Funding** — Variable
4. **Design Paths & Obtain Permits**
5. **Construct Paths** — Approximately 3 years
6. **Open for Use**