

REPORT OF MEETING
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE PROJECT NO. 0025-0149
Drainage Improvements on Route 42
Town of Cheshire
Public Information Meeting
May 28, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
414 North Brooksville Road (Norton Elementary School)

PURPOSE OF MEETING: The purpose of this meeting was to present the project to local residents and Town officials and to gather their feedback and address any questions and concerns that they had.

PRESENTERS:

CTDOT - Highway Design:

- Michael N. Calabrese - Michael.Calabrese@ct.gov
- Nicholas A. Ivanoff – Nicholas.Ivanoff@ct.gov
- Eric T. Smith – Eric.T.Smith@ct.gov
- Brian Lawson – Brian.Lawson@ct.gov

CTDOT - Traffic Engineering

- Joseph H. Rimiller – Joseph.Rimiller@ct.gov

CTDOT - Rights of Way

- Jack A. Carlson – Jack.Carlson@ct.gov

PRESENTATION AND OPEN HOUSE:

At 6:00 p.m. CTDOT representatives were available to answer questions about the project during an open house held before the formal presentation. Two stations were set up to display the proposed stormwater drainage system layout and proposed detour route.

At 6:30 p.m. Mr. Nicholas Ivanoff called the presentation to order. There were approximately 17 attendees. Mr. Ivanoff began the presentation by informing attendees that comments could be submitted following the meeting via the comment form provided, followed by a review of the meeting agenda and introductions from himself and the CTDOT representatives. Mr. Ivanoff reviewed civil rights as outlined under Title VI and discussed the review of the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Mr. Eric Smith followed by presenting the project location and existing conditions, including roadway characteristics, crash history, flooding history, the existing stormwater drainage system, and the project scope. Mr. Smith discussed the proposed drainage system and roadway work, along with anticipated impacts to utilities and rights of way.

Mr. Jack Carlson explained the functions of the Division of Rights of Way and the standard process involved with Rights of Way acquisitions.

Mr. Smith concluded the presentation by discussing the proposed use of alternating one-way traffic on Route 42 during construction, the allowable construction hours, the suggested Route 42 detour for truck traffic, and the current project cost, funding, and schedule. A presentation slide with the project contact information was displayed at the conclusion of the presentation with encouragement to submit comments or questions following the meeting should they arise.

Following the presentation, attendees were invited back to the display stations for further discussion and questions. Open conversation was held with attendees for approximately 30 minutes before the meeting concluded.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Questions could be asked during the meeting or submitted to the project e-mail, CTDOT voicemail, or CTDOT mail. The question and comment period will close on June 11, 2026.

- Attendees asked why the project is taking as long as it is to be completed.
Changes were made by CTDEEP and the USACE to permitting processes, which will result in longer processing times for environmental permits, up to one year. In addition, flash floods in August 2024 had initiated several emergency declaration projects, diverting design crews from their regular projects. Construction will begin once all permits and rights of way have been acquired.
- Attendees expressed concern regarding driveway access during construction.
Driveway access will be maintained during construction. Property owners will be notified by the contractor when work will be completed in front of their properties and driveways.
- A resident asked if the roadway will be widened as part of the project and expressed concerns about that causing increasing speeds along this section. The thought of increased speeds in proximity to the school, YMCA, and multi-use trail which all generate pedestrian traffic was thought to generate safety concerns.
This project is scoped as a drainage improvement project and is not changing the overall geometry or width of the roadway. Following the drainage system modifications, the existing roadway will be resurfaced and new pavement markings applied. Existing sidewalks and driveway aprons disturbed during construction will be replaced and curb-ramps will be upgraded to ADA compliance.
- Attendees expressed some concerns regarding occupancy of the Lock 12 Park parking lot during construction and requested that restorative landscaping be coordinated with a local gardening club.
The concern and recommendation were noted by the CTDOT representatives. Use of the Lock 12 Park parking lot will only be needed during construction of the system outlet and segment of trunk line underneath the parking lot, and not for the whole duration of construction. The parking lot is planned to be refurbished following completion of this work. However, the contractor may request use of a portion of the parking area for

material storage after completion of that initial work if no other locations near the project limits are found available to them.

- A resident and member of the local garden club “Pollinator Pathways” noted the presence of pollinator gardens along the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail that abut the staging area and wanted to provide awareness to the design team to ensure these areas are avoided during construction. The resident also expressed the importance of planting native trees and other plantings to be considered for their resilience and benefits to the ecosystem like turning carbon dioxide into oxygen, filtering and absorbing rainwater, and feeding and providing wildlife habitat. (This comment was reiterated in an e-mail on May 29, 2026.)
The design team will provide this information to the CTDOT Landscape Design unit once assigned to the project. It was encouraged of the resident to send her recommendations and concerns to the project email if possible. (The e-mail was received the following day – May 29, 2026.)
- An attendee suggested that it may be beneficial to complete any work that will use the Lock 12 Park parking lot early in the project schedule, given that the parking lot gets particularly busy in the summer months.
The portion of the system to be constructed at the Lock 12 Park parking lot will be where construction begins, given that it is the outlet end of the stormwater drainage system.
- Attendees asked if and what kind of notices will be given for closures on Route 42. One attendee had suggested a text messaging system.
Local EMS will be notified in advance of any temporary closures on Route 42. Text message notifications of road closures are typically only used with larger projects, though for this project, a system of prior notification of temporary roadway closures will be looked into.
- An attendee asked if further mailings would be sent out.
Typically, no further mailings are sent out after a Public Info Meeting is held.
- The Assistant Town Engineer asked if final determinations had been made regarding utility conflicts.
Not at this time, though in the coming months, test pit locations will be finalized, and a utility coordination meeting will be held.
- An attendee noted that there is a culvert present underneath the shopping center along Route 10, east of the project area, and asked if it was in any way part of the project system.
The culvert in question is separate from the project system.
- An attendee wanted clarification regarding the need for rights of way acquisitions.
There are instances where the ROW line is within the sidewalk. In other words, only part of the sidewalk is within public ROW. Any work on such a segment of sidewalk would thus require a sliver acquisition for future maintenance of the sidewalk.
- A local resident noted that the canal was last dredged in 1971, when Lock 12 was restored, and that it could potentially use some dredging.
The suggestion that the canal be dredged was noted. Dredging would be outside of the scope of the project, and the required permitting would cause significant delays to the project schedule. Further concern regarding this should be directed to CTDEEP.
- A resident said that the CTDOT had told them that the storm drainage system would be cleaned every two years, but that this has turned out not to be the case, and that the CTDOT has only one vacuum truck at their disposal.
The concern/complaint was noted by CTDOT representatives.

- A resident expressed concern regarding flooding that may occur due to rainfall and broken links in the drainage system during construction, particularly if such flooding were to travel down Ott Drive and to their property on Dryden Drive.
When rainfall is forecasted during construction, the existing stormwater drainage system will be tied into the new system to ensure continuity.
- Some residents wanted to know how the drainage system will be constructed. Specifically, will construction begin at the Ott Drive section of the project or at the outfall, and how will stormwater be managed during construction.
The contractor will begin at the outfall and upgrade the drainage system from there leading back to where the drainage system starts near Ott Drive. Stormwater handling will be maintained during construction using bypass pipes and pumps as needed.
- Some residents expressed concerns about areas of flooding experienced about a mile further west of the project limits on Route 42, and asked if this project is addressing those areas as well.
The project limits represented on the display boards were shown to the residents and it was explained to them that this project only addresses this specific section of road and its drainage system. It was advised that they bring the issue up with the District office to have the issue looked at for possible causes of the flooding.
- The CTDOT representatives gauged the acceptability of night work from the attendees, noting that it would speed up the completion of construction.
Attendees expressed mixed opinions regarding the use of night work, with some encouraging as much expedition as possible with the design and construction, and others concerned about the resulting noise.

CONCLUSION:

The CTDOT representatives encouraged the attendees to submit additional questions and comments via phone, e-mail, or mailing in the comment form included with the meeting handout. For more project information, Mr. Ivanoff directed attendees to the project handout, which included a weblink to the project website. It was explained that the comment period would run for two weeks, until June 11, 2026. The meeting concluded at approximately 7:30 p.m.