

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
State Project No. 92-689
Federal Aid Project No. 0015(149)
Route 15 Interchange No. 46 (Old 59) Improvements
City of New Haven and Town of Woodbridge

Project Location:

This project is located on Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway) at Interchange 46, which connects to the subnetwork of Route 63 and 69 in the City of New Haven and the Town of Woodbridge. Project limits on Route 15 extend from approximately 1,450 feet south of Bridge No. 771 (Route 15 over Route 63 Log Mile 46.24) to the southern limits of the Heroes Tunnel (Log Mile 47.14).

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of this project is to provide safety, mobility, and connectivity improvements on Route 15 at Exit 46 interchange ramps and the immediate subnetwork connections with Route 69 and Route 63.

Existing Conditions:

Route 15 is classified as an Urban Freeway and consists of two through lanes, an 8-foot right and 4-foot left shoulders in each direction. The northbound and southbound lanes are separated by a 30-foot wide grass median with metal beam rail in the immediate area near the tunnel and tapers to a single concrete barrier as Route 15 approaches the interchange. Interchange 46 services Route 63 and Route 69 and consists of two on-ramps and two off-ramps.

The Route 15 southbound on-ramp is stop controlled with approximately 50 feet of acceleration distance into a 6% upgrade. This on-ramp consists of individual ramp entrances from both Route 69 and Route 63. The two entrances merge to a single yield point approximately 100 feet prior to the stop-controlled merge onto Route 15 southbound. Over a 3-year period, this stop controlled on-ramp experienced 211 crashes with 19 injuries.

The Route 15 northbound on-ramp is accessed through Pond Lily Road which is a local road. Route 69 southbound vehicles are required to make a left turn at the Pond Lily Road intersection prior to accessing the ramp. The left-turn storage length is insufficient due to the adjacent intersection just to the north of this location on Route 69 and causes congestion and operational inefficiency at this intersection.

The two off-ramps lack decelerations lanes and have limited area to properly decelerate before entering ramp curves. The ramp curves are rated for lower speeds than are experienced on the highway requiring vehicles to lower their speed as they approach the ramp in the right through lane on the highway.

Bridge No. 771 is listed in fair condition with a substructure rating of 5 according to the 2018 inspection report. It was constructed in the 1948 and rehabilitated in 1989 with new abutment panels anchored to

the existing abutment. The condition of the original abutments behind the new panels is not known. Bridge 772 is listed in good condition and falls into the functional obsolescence category due to the under-clearance of 13'-11".

State Project 92-672 was recently constructed to provide immediate congestion relief on Route 69 and improved access to the Route 15 northbound on-ramp. The project has improved signal operations at the intersection of Pond Lily Ave and Route 69, where the left turn egress phase from Pond Lily Ave has been removed. A new traffic signal was installed at the intersection that also services the Route 15 northbound off-ramp. The project also included enhancements to the pedestrian network, creating a seamless connection from the intersection of Route 69 and 63 at the southern limit to Lucy Street.

Proposed Improvements:

This project proposes to provide acceleration and deceleration lanes for all four ramps within this interchange and add a new loop ramp to access Route 15 northbound from Route 69. To accommodate the proposed interchange improvements, significant structure work will be required on Bridge No. 771 and Bridge No. 772. Along with bridge improvements, retaining walls will be required to minimize impact to private properties and the West River.

The addition of a new loop ramp will improve access to Route 15 northbound and reduce congestion on Route 69. The new loop ramp will allow the removal of the Pond Lily Ave. on-ramp currently being used to access Route 15 northbound and will eliminate a left turn maneuver on Route 69 currently used to access Route 15 northbound. Pond Lily Ave will now allow both lefts and rights at it's intersection with Route 69.

Bridge No. 771 will be completely replaced due to the unknown condition of the abutments and to accommodate the proposed acceleration and deceleration lanes. The proposed structure will support two through lanes in each direction, two Route 15 southbound acceleration lanes and one Route 15 northbound deceleration lane.

Bridge No. 772 the super structure will be replaced and will be widened to accommodate the addition of a Route 15 southbound deceleration lane and a Route 15 northbound acceleration lane.

Improvements on Route 69 will be limited to accommodating the new intersection configuration at the new loop ramp otherwise will be minimal to match into the improvements constructed under Project 92-672.

Rights-of-Way:

It is anticipated that one total acquisition, permanent and temporary easements will be required for the proposed improvements.

Environmental Permits:

It is anticipated that various permits may be required due to impacts to adjacent water resources, FEMA mapped regulatory areas and the West River.

Current Schedule:

Design Approval: 2/18/26

FDP: 9/1/27

DCD: 10/13/27

ADV: 11/10/27