



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Determination of Exemption for

Historic Properties

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Date: September 9, 2025

Project: State No. 97-101

Project Title: Bridge No. 05970

Town: Norfolk

Category of Exemption:

Appendix B – Screened

Undertakings Project Description

Using federal and state funds, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 05970, which carries Old Goshen Road over Hall Meadow Brook in the Town of Norfolk. Bridge No. 05970 was comprised of three six-foot diameter non-corrugated steel culverts. The Bridge was completely washed out as a result of a rainstorm on July 10, 2023, and the road has been closed at the Bridge location since that time. CTDOT proposes to construct a new bridge on the same alignment with similar size and dimensions. This project will require very minor temporary rights-of-way for construction.

As a portion of the project funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the undertaking falls under the purview of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and will be reviewed under the provisions of the Programmatic Agreement executed between CTDOT, FHWA, FTA, FRA, the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (CT SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for Transportation Projects.

Technical Review of Project

Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of the road and bridge ROW along Old Goshen Road in addition to the temporary ROW acquisition immediately adjacent to the washed-out bridge.

Above-Ground Conditions Within the APE

The online digital database of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) maintained by the National Park Service was consulted for the purpose of locating any historic buildings or districts in the project vicinity. There are no National or State-listed or eligible historic properties or districts within or in immediate proximity to the project area. Bridge No. 05970 was constructed in 1956; however, it is not historic and would have been exempt from Section 106 review by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Program Comment for Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges. No above-ground historic properties will be impacted by this project.

Archaeological Conditions Within the APE

Digital site records maintained by the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), as well as OEP's own internally compiled database of resources and previous cultural resource studies, were consulted for the purpose of identifying any previously known archaeological sites within the APE.

Soils within the APE are classified as Fluvaquents-Udifluvents complex and are frequently flooded. These soils primarily refer to loose, unconsolidated soil or sediments formed by erosion and water. It can also be assumed that soils within and near the existing ROW have been previously disturbed through construction and maintenance of the existing bridge and roadway. No archaeological sites will be impacted by this project.

Conclusion

Qualified OEP cultural resources staff conducted background research and reviewed the project scope. A review of records maintained by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) did not identify any properties listed on or potentially eligible for the NRHP within the project APE, nor was Bridge No. 05970 determined to be potentially eligible for listing. Furthermore, OEP staff has determined that there is minimal foreseeable potential to impact intact archaeological resources and no additional archaeological study is recommended.

The work proposed under State Project No. 97-101 meets the criteria of Section 14 of Appendix B, "Exempted Undertakings Requiring Qualified Staff Review," of the 2025 Section 106 Programmatic

Agreement. Bridge No. 05970 would have fallen within ACHP's *Program Comment for Streamlining Section 106 Review for Actions Affecting Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges* and the *Section 106 Exemption Regarding Effects to the Interstate Highway System*. As such, no further consultation with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (CTSPHO) is required. Consultation was carried out with Federally recognized Native American Tribes with ancestral ties to the State of Connecticut. None of the Tribes expressed any concerns with the undertaking. A copy of this determination will be included in the quarterly report of Minor Transportation Projects that is submitted to CTSHPO.



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