



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Determination of Exemption for Historic Properties

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Project: State No.: 97-102
F.A.P. No.: TBD
Project Title: Replacement of Bridge No. 05971
Smith Road over Hall Meadow Brook
Town: Norfolk

Category of Exemption: Appendix B “Screened Undertakings...”

Description of Activity

In July 2023 a storm overtopped Bridge No. 05971 and washed out all three culverts which comprised the bridge structure. The project uses federal and state funds to build a new structure at the same location, which carries Smith Road over Hall Meadow Brook in Norfolk. CTDOT is currently developing design plans for a new structure, which is proposed to be a single-span concrete bridge with simulated stone masonry form liner on the end blocks and exposed portions of the wingwalls. The new bridge will be on the same alignment as Bridge No. 05971. Construction impacts will be limited to immediately surrounding the former bridge crossing.

Technical Review of the Project

Bridge No. 05971 was constructed in 1999 and would not have been considered National Register eligible. Evidence of the non-historic masonry abutments remain on each side of Hall Meadow Brook (Figure 1).

The bridge is located in a rural area with residences to the north and southeast of the former bridge location. Historic maps and aerial images from the 19th & 20th centuries were reviewed and none had evidence of structures near this location. A review of records maintained by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) indicates there are no National Register-listed properties within a half a mile of this location.

A majority of the soils in the area of potential effects are classified as poorly drained Fluvaquents-Udifluvents and have low archaeological sensitivity. These soils primarily refer to loose, unconsolidated soil or sediments formed by erosion and water. It can also be assumed that soils within the existing transportation ROW have been previously disturbed through construction and maintenance of the existing bridge and roadway. Examination of digital site records maintained by the Office of the State Archaeologist reveals that there are no known archaeological sites are located within one mile of this location.

Determination

The subject project falls within activity nos. 11 and 14 of Bridge/Culvert Related Projects of Appendix B of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.¹ The bridge was not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places either as an individual property or as a contributor to a thematic resource or historic district. OEP has determined that the project is exempt from Section 106 review. No further consultation with the SHPO is necessary. A copy of this finding will be included in the quarterly report of Minor Transportation Projects that is submitted to the SHPO.



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Figure 1: Remnants of Bridge No. 05971 Masonry Abutments

¹ “Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Implementation of Minor Transportation Projects”, signed October 24, 2012.