

REPORT OF MEETING

State Project No. 0107-0181 Replacement of Temporary Bridge No. 00944 Carrying Route 34 over Eight Mile Brook

Town of Oxford

November 20, 2025 7:00 PM

486 Oxford Rd, Oxford Town Hall

Minutes of Public Information Meeting

Present:

Arnold Jenson, Oxford Selectman
Kristyn Rosa, Oxford Administrative Assistant
Ten (10) Residents, see attached Sign-In Sheet

CTDOT Members

Andrew J. Cardinali, Principal Engineer, Bridge Design
Jonathan J. Kempf, Supervising Engineer, Bridge Design
Sangyul Cho, Project Engineer, Bridge Design
Matthew V. Colonna, Design Engineer, Bridge Design
Kathleen E. Ericson, Office of Rights of Way

Transactions and Determinations

The CTDOT presentation began at approximately 7:00 PM by Jonathan Kempf with an introduction of the present Design Team, a meeting overview, how to contact the department with any future questions or concerns, and the Title IV information. Sangyul Cho then discussed the project need, project scope and proposed replacement structure. Matthew Colonna discussed the proposed stage construction, ROW impacts, and proposed traffic plan. Kathleen Ericson gave an overview of the Rights of Way process throughout the course of a state project. Mr. Cho laid out the project schedule and funding and then opened the floor up to questions and comments from the public and town officials.

Contact Information that was provided:

PROJECT EMAIL: Jonathan.Kempf@ct.gov

PHONE: (860) 594-2020 (voicemail only)

PROJECT WEBPAGE: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTOXFORD0107-0181>

Key Points of the presentation:

- Existing bridge is a temporary single-span ACROW panel system, 80 ft long and 29'-9" wide, carrying ADT 9,200 with 4% trucks.

- Installed after the 2024 Flood Event washed out the old concrete arch bridge; must be removed and replaced with a permanent structure.
- Proposed replacement: steel-beam, single-span bridge on integral abutments, 83'-6" span, 39'-6" curb-to-curb width, with 2x11 ft lanes and 7 ft shoulders.
- Proposed roadway alignment will be shifted approximately 4' towards the South. Which closely matches the roadway alignment pre-flood event.
- Construction planned for 2027, completed in one season with staged construction maintaining one alternating traffic lane.
- Temporary overhead utility relocation may be required, and it's proposed to be restored back to pre-flood event configuration.
- ROW impacts expected; Temporary Construction Easements needed for construction and riprap modifications.
- CTDEEP recommended parking and access for public recreational fishing, the feasibility is still being investigated by the CTDOT design units.
- Permits anticipated: IW General, FMC, and ACOE SV.
- Estimated construction cost: \$11,000,000 (80% Federal / 20% State).

Public Comments and Concerns (Responses are included below under the Questions section)

- A few residents voiced strong concerns for the proposed idea of an official paved parking area for fishing. Mentioned concerns of pull overs in the area having criminal activity and loitering issues. All present residents agreed.
- A few residents had questions on the Stevenson Dam that is approximately half a mile west of the project site. Residents wanted to know if there are any future projects to replace or repair the structure and if the current structure has any safety concerns.
- A few residents voiced concerns on traffic speed in the area, even saying that the road has become a "raceway".

Public Questions:

- Will there be any changes to Loughlin Rd or the intersection? Roadway widening?
 - Response: As for Loughlin Rd there are no anticipated roadway or intersection changes at the moment. Highway design is still developing the plans to tie the new bridge alignment with Route 34 and Loughlin Rd.
- What about changes to the width of the bridge, and will the approach roadway also be widened?

- Response: The proposed bridge is wider than the existing bridge to accommodate complete streets. As for the roadway, the North shift of the roadway is only temporary. The South side of the bridge will see some permanent widening to tie into Route 34, however the extent of limits East and West from the bridge are still being investigated.
- Will the new bridge better accommodate the excess water for future storms? Residents noted extensive property damage East of the bridge.
 - Response: Yes. The bridge has an open width of 80' and has been hydraulically designed by our Hydraulic & Drainage design unit. The roadway drainage is still in the design phase.
- Selectman: Why is there a need for a detour if the staging allowed for alternating one way traffic?
 - Response: There will be occasional construction activities that could require short-term closures. Ex. Removing the temporary bridge which requires crane space and area to dismantle
- Why is there a need to remove the bridge that is currently out there?
 - Response: The current bridge is not designed for long-term 75-year design life and is controlled by fatigue life.
- Will there be any changes to the properties East of the bridge?
 - Response: There are no anticipated permanent rights of way takes, only temporary easements during construction.
- How formal will the proposed parking lot for fishing be? Would it be paved?
 - Response: Details of the parking area are still being investigated internally with the Bridge, Highway, and ROW units. The area would likely be paved with parking spots and have a trail leading to the river that could be gravel or paved.
- Are there any long-term plans to fix the dam (Stevenson Dam)? Is there any concern for its integrity?
 - Response: Bridge Design has no future projects for the dam currently. The dam has a posted limit restricting certain vehicles from traveling over. Firstlight Power currently owns the dam and has been making repairs over the years.
- Is the existing bridge supposed to be loud? Residents noted it makes loud banging noises when traffic rides over, especially trucks.
 - Response: Bridge Design has not heard of this issue, we'll check with other units and see if the structure can get an inspection.
- Will the new bridge be quieter?
 - Response: Yes. The new bridge structure will have approach slabs, a smaller expansion joint, and a bridge overlay providing a smooth transition to the roadway.

- Will the traffic lights be permanent?
 - Response: No, the traffic signals are only temporary during 1-way alternating traffic stages.
- Will there be any change to the speed limit in the area?
 - Response: Not that the project team is aware of. The speed limits are controlled by a Traffic Operations Unit..
- A resident reported that several speed limit signs appear to be missing along Route 67 in Oxford.
 - This concern has been forwarded to District 4 Maintenance via email for review and follow-up. (dot.maintd4@ct.gov).

Adjournment:

The email address, telephone number and project webpage address were provided for any additional questions or comments regarding the project following the meeting until December 4th, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Welcome to the Public Information Meeting for 0107-0181 Replacement of Temporary Bridge No. 00944 Carrying Route 34 over Eight Mile Brook, Town of Oxford

Thank you for attending and sharing your input. Your feedback is vital to shaping this project. Please answer the sections below to help us address the community's needs and ensure project success. **Note: All information on this attendance sheet is subject to freedom of information.**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Sign-up for email updates?</u>
1.	John Downs	203 735-6795	06478	rivermayor@aol.	
2.	Tom Drew	203 494 3209	06478	twid586@yahoo.com	
3.	Blaze Fabry	203 955 9218	06478	blaze.fabry@gmail.com	
4.	Arnold Jensen	203 572 3711	06478	arnold.jensen@ct.sgs.com	✓
5.	Kerry + Cathy McCabe	203 735 9280	06478	lprc32 lprc32@gmail.com	✓
6.	Suzanne Lacey	415-731-8174	06478	SuzanneLacey@gmail.com	✓
7.	Anthony Johnson	425-7318114	06478	antjohnsalerbs@gmail.com	✓
8.	John 142	203 676-1324	06478	chiefjohn142 56c76ba/m2t	✓



<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Sign-up for email updates?</u>
9. Cynthia Campbell	203-934-7141	06448	shopping.noway@gmail.com	Yes
10. Heven Small	908 274 4135	06748	SS 4677 @Bral	Yes
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