

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
STATE PROJECT NUMBER: 0109-0173
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER: N/A
FARMINGTON CANAL HERITAGE TRAIL PHASE 3
NORTON PARK TO ROUTE 72
TOWN OF PLAINVILLE

LOCATION OF PROJECT: This project is located in the Town of Plainville, beginning at Norton Park and then extending north for approximately 1.7 miles (9000 ft.) to a terminating point just south of Route 72. The project when completed will connect with the Phase 1 and 2 Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT) projects, which have anticipated construction start dates of Fall 2025 and Fall 2026, respectively.



Figure 1: Project Location

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail is a non-motorized transportation facility typically built on a historic rail corridor formally known as the Canal Line. The FCHT trail is located in Connecticut and Massachusetts for a total length of 86 miles and is part of the larger East Coast Greenway trail system.

There is no existing trail network within the limits of this project. This project includes construction of a new section of the FCHT that starts in Norton Park along the Farmington Canal and continues north following along the east side of Hemingway St., the south side of Broad St., the east side of Route 177, over the Pequabuck River, along the Clean Earth property adjacent to Route 177, over the existing CSX Railroad, and then along the perimeter of West Cemetery prior to terminating just south of Route 72.



Figure 2: Norton Park at Farmington Canal (Facing East)



Figure 3: Hemingway Street (Facing North)



Figure 4: Broad Street (Facing East)



Figure 5: Washington Street - Route 177 (Facing North)



Figure 6: Washington Street north of Route 372



Figure 7: Bridge No. 01485 on Route 177 (Facing North)



Figure 8: Route 177 at Clearn Earth, Inc. (Facing North)



Figure 9: Town maintenance road at cemetery (Facing East)



Figure 10: Wooded area behind West Cemetery (Facing North)



Figure 11: Route 72 roadside (Facing West)

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of this project is to construct 1.7 miles (9000 ft.) of the FCHT multi-use trail, in the Town of Plainville. This project is needed to close the final remaining gap in the Connecticut section of the FCHT trail, which will consist of 56 miles of continuous multi-use trail connecting New Haven to the Massachusetts border when completed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Closure of the gap in Plainville is proposed to be completed through three project phases. Phases 1 and 2 are anticipated to start construction in Fall 2025 and Fall 2026, respectively. Phase 1 includes construction of the multi-use trail from Town Line Road at the Plainville-Southington border to Norton Park, following along the remnants of the Farmington Canal. Phase 2 includes construction of the multi-use trail from Route 72 to Northwest Drive where it will connect with the existing FCHT trailhead on Northwest Drive. This project includes construction of Phase 3, which entails approximately 1.7 miles (9000 ft.) of multi-use trail between Norton Park and Route 72, closing the gap between the Phase 1 and 2 sections.

The Phase 3 multi-use trail will consist of a 9 to 12-foot wide paved surface and include other amenities such as signage for information and safety, benches, and picnic tables to provide rest areas. The Phase 3 alignment begins at Norton Park and continues north along the east side of Hemingway St., the south side of Broad St., the east side of Route 177, across the Pequabuck River, along the Clean Earth property adjacent to Route 177, over the existing CSX Railroad, and then travels east of West Cemetery prior to terminating at Route 72. The existing roadway configuration on Hemingway Street accommodates bi-directional traffic and on-street parking on both sides of the road. Hemingway Street is proposed to be narrowed from approximately 34 ft. to 30 ft. in order to accommodate the existing travel lanes and the multi-use trail. As a result, available space for on-street parking will remain on the east side of roadway only. The existing roadway configuration on Broad Street accommodates bi-directional traffic with seven-foot wide shoulders on both sides. Broad Street is proposed to be narrowed from approximately 42 ft. to 36 ft. to accommodate the existing travel lanes and the multi-use trail. An eight-foot wide shoulder along the south side of Broad Street is proposed, which accommodates on-street parking. From Broad Street to the Pequabuck River, the centerline of Route 177 is proposed to be shifted 5 ft. to the west and shoulder width in both directions reduced to two feet to accommodate the multi-use trail. Raised intersections on Route 177 are proposed at both Broad Street and Route 372 to calm traffic, reduce speed, and increase safety for all users at the intersections. Both intersections require minor relocation and widening to accommodate the proposed modification and centerline shift of the approaching roadways. To maintain a continuous trail over the Pequabuck River, Bridge No. 01485 is proposed to be widened to accommodate the existing travel lanes and the multi-use trail. To traverse the CSX Railroad a 115 ft. span pedestrian bridge is proposed.

To provide a connected multi-modal transportation network between the FCHT and the Beeline multi-use trail, with a planned destination of the New Britain Fastrak station, an additional multi-use spur trail will be constructed as a 10-foot wide paved surface. The spur trail will begin at the southeast corner of the Route 177 and Route 372 intersection and continue east along the south side of Route 372 for 0.36 miles (1900 ft.), terminating just east of Pierce Street and providing

connection to downtown Plainville. To accommodate the spur trail, the centerline of Route 372 will be shifted 5 ft. to the north and shoulder width in both directions reduced to 4 feet.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: FDP: 01/28/2028
 DCD: 03/08/2028
 ADV: 04/05/2028

PROJECT CONTACTS: Project Manager, Stephen D. Hall, P.E. (860) 594-2591
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