

## REPORT OF MEETING

**PROJECT:** Federal Local Bridge Program (FLBP)

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 24, 2024

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** Town Hall, Town of Southbury

**SUBJECT OF MEETING:** Public Informational Meeting (PIM) for the following FLBP bridge:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Bridge No.</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Description</u>
0130-0192; FAP No. 6130(014)	05029	Southbury	Poverty Road over Pomperaug River

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### **State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT)**

Marc Byrnes – Consultant Bridge Design - CLE Program  
Andrew Shields – Consultant Bridge Design - CLE Program  
Zachary Guarino – Division of Rights-of-Way

#### **Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C. (CJM)**

James Platosh  
Thomas Weldon

#### **Town of Southbury**

Blake Leonard – Director of Public Works

## TRANSACTIONS AND DETERMINATIONS

The Live PIM meeting which was streamed on YouTube started at 7:00 p.m. A total of 36-PowerPoint slides were presented, and a two-page Fact Sheet was distributed.

Marc Byrnes, DOT welcomed everyone to the live event, reviewed the event format, discussed the PIM goals, explained the process for submitting questions/comments and reviewed Title VI information. Marc then introduced Blake Leonard, Director of Public Works, Town of Southbury.

Blake Leonard, Town of Southbury, Director of Public Works, had some welcoming remarks and wanted to thank the community for their comments to date and is looking forward to continued positive communication during the design process. He then went on to explain the goals of this project are to increase a level of pedestrian, traffic, and user safety along with an improvement to the areas functionality and beauty that would not be possible without the cost benefit of the DMS program funding (80% Federal/20% State).

Marc Byrnes next introduced the project team at DOT and CJM, discussed the Design Management by State (DMS) program utilized for this project and gave a brief overview of the structural elements of a bridge and DOT's numerical condition rating system. Then he turned the presentation over to Tom Weldon, CJM.

Tom Weldon gave a presentation that described the existing Bridge No. 05029 and the recommended replacement bridge. This portion of the presentation included the:

- Project Location
- Existing Conditions
  - Utility Conditions
  - Bridge Condition (Rated 5)
  - Deck Geometry Appraisal Rating (Rated 2)
- Proposed Bridge Concept Plans
  - Elevation View
  - Plan View
  - Roadway Plan View
  - Cross Section
  - Concrete Form Liner and Metallized Open Bridge Rail Treatment (Examples)
- Proposed Detour Route
- Proposed Poverty Road Closure

- Anticipated Permits
- Anticipated Construction Sequence
- Anticipated Schedule and Cost

Tom also explained during the presentation how the extensive use of the proposed retaining wall systems would minimize any impacts not only to George Ewald Park but also to the adjacent property owners. In addition, it was stated that George Ewald Park would remain open for the duration of the construction period.

Following the above, Tom introduced Zachary Guarino, DOT to talk about the Department's rights-of-way process.

Zachary Guarino described the Division of Rights-of-Ways function, applicable statutory references, the types of potential impacts to private property, and the various steps in the right-of-way acquisition process.

Andrew Shields, DOT explained how questions, comments and concerns could be submitted via e-mail, phone, or DOT project webpage. Andrew then introduced Jim Platosh and Marc Byrnes and opened the floor to live questions and answers or comments, which were as follows:

1. Is there a stoplight planned for the project? – *No.*
2. Construction duration? How do we make sure that we can adhere to the 9-month construction duration. – *the projected 9-month schedule has some float built into timeline. But due to unforeseen supply delays and weather events the duration can be affected. There are ways to accelerate the project should it fall behind that would require the approval of the Town of Southbury.*
3. Why build a 2-lane bridge? – *In order to be federally eligible, 2 lanes must be provided.*
4. If Poverty Road is closed, will all driveway access be maintained to Heritage Village condominium parking areas? Will weekend work be required? – *All existing access to Heritage Village will be maintained and the current planned operational hours do not include weekends.*
5. What will happen with utility moves? – *Overhead relocations are currently planned to the North side of bridge where they will remain permanently. The existing water line will need to be moved to the south temporarily and the current proposal is to relocate it permanently onto the bridge. Eversource gas shall not be extending across the bridge.*
6. What will the speed be? The speed is high and unsafe for existing travel speeds at Ewald Park – *25 mph, and traffic control devices for pedestrians at the crossing at Ewald Park are being investigated at this time.*
7. Are there any considerations for building the bridge and dropping it in place? There are noise concerns from residents who live near the bridge. Speeding concerns further to the west and its impact to a golf crossing – *ABC techniques will be utilized as much as possible. Work will be completed within any noise ordinances that the Town of Southbury may have. Town will check into. In regards to the golf course crossing further to the west, it is outside the limits of construction.*
8. Please consider trying to visually narrow the bridge to help slow speeds. Give consideration to bicyclists – *These will be looked at as design progresses.*
9. Are other bridge parapets being investigated to change the aesthetics of the bridge? – *Not yet currently, we do not know what affect hydraulics has on the bridge as of yet. We will investigate other options as the design progresses, whatever we use needs to meet MASH requirements.*
10. When you close Poverty Road, who will be responsible for the property? – *within the current street lines, the property will be maintained by the municipality. The area on Heritage Village property will continue to be maintained by them.*
11. Does this bridge need to be built? – *The bridge design life is at its end. Funding guidelines and safety design guidelines must be adhered to in order to make sure this structure can be funded.*
12. Consider adding a guiderail between the road and the sidewalk. – *Shall investigate.*
13. What is the approach width? – *The existing approach roadway is a 24' wide bituminous concrete pavement structure that is not line stripped.*
14. Consider a bicycle lane. – *Will consider.*
15. How will the end of Poverty Road where it gets closed in the vicinity of the Heritage Village driveway be maintained in snow events? – *Will be considered in design.*

There were no other comments or questions from the public, so Andrew concluded the question-and-answer session and reminded those in attendance that the comment period is open until May 8, 2024.

The PIM was closed at approximately 8:03 p.m. A total of twenty-one people attended the event, six of which were presenters. State Project No. 0130-0192 appeared to be generally well received since no objections were voiced -during the PIM.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas E. Weldon, Jr.  
Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C.

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Shields  
DOT Bridge Consultant Design

cc: Attendees