

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
State Project No. 0154-0128
Federal-Aid Project No. 0153(002)PE

Replacement of Bridge No. 00232 Carrying Route 153 Over I-95
Town of Westbrook

Minutes of Public Information Meeting
Thursday, December 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Westbrook Town Hall – 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, Connecticut

Representatives Present:

Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) - Project Team

Micheal Calabrese, P.E.	Highway Design – Division Chief
Salvatore Aresco, P.E.	Highway Design – Project Manager
Malissa Carvalho	Highway Design – Project Engineer (<i>Presenter</i>)
Makayla Roshkowski	Highway Design – Design Engineer (<i>Presenter</i>)
Jack Carlson	Rights-of-Way – Coordinator (<i>Presenter</i>)
Andrew O'Reilly	Bridge Design – Project Engineer
Calvin Feulner	Bridge Design – Design Engineer
John Deliberto, P.E.	District II – District Engineer
Mark Elliot	District II – Project Engineer
Jonah Berrien	Highway Design – Transportation Engineer

Town of Westbrook

John Hall	First Selectman
Chet Bialicki	Selectman
Joe Campbell	Selectman
Peter Gillespie	Planning, Zoning, and Development Director

There were approximately 26 attendees which also included a representative of the proposed development at the Westbrook Outlets site and the Middlesex Hospital.

Purpose of Meeting:

A public informational meeting was held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Westbrook Town Hall to present the proposed preliminary design for public comment. The purpose of the project is to replace Bridge No. 00232, which carries Route 153 over I-95, to address the deteriorating bridge girders and the substandard vertical clearance over I-95.

An open forum began at 6:00 p.m. to provide the public an opportunity to speak with the project team, consisting of representatives from State Highway Design, Division of Rights-of-Way, and Bridge Design. The project team spoke with the public one-on-one to answer questions and explain the preliminary project design.

The formal presentation began at 7:00 p.m. and was followed by a question-and-answer session to further address questions. To open the meeting, Ms. Malissa Carvalho started the presentation, explained the Title VI Civil Rights Act, encouraged attendees to take an optional survey that is available on the project website, introduced the project team, and gave a brief overview of the project location and purpose of the project. The remainder of the presentation was then given by Ms. Makayla Roshkowski which detailed the aspects of the proposed design.

The following topics were covered during the presentation:

- Project Location
- Purposed and Need
- Existing Conditions
- Crash Data (January 2022 to December 2024)
- Proposed Design
 - Replacement of Bridge No. 00232
 - Realignment of the I-95 Exit 65 Interchange Off-ramps
 - Lane reduction Route 153 and the northbound off-ramp
 - Replacement of traffic signals
- Other Design Considerations
 - Construction
 - Alternating one-way traffic pattern with temporary closures on Route 153 for reconstruction of Bridge No. 00232.
 - Traffic lanes shifted on I-95 with short duration temporary closures associated with the reconstruction of Bridge No. 00232.
 - Exit 65 Interchange Ramp closures with detours on I-95 during construction.
 - Preliminary Rights-of-Way Impacts
 - Defined traffic easement on the Westbrook Honda property to install traffic signal equipment at the corner of Route 153 and Flat Rock Place.
 - Slope easement along Route 153 on the Westbrook Honda property.
 - Driveway reconstruction on the Mobil gas station property.
 - Overhead and underground utilities
 - Water main attached to Bridge No. 00232 requires relocation.
 - Relocation of various utility poles within the vicinity of the bridge
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Minor permanent wetland impacts in the gore area of the I-95 Exit 65 Southbound On-Ramp.
 - I-95 Exit 65 Northbound On-Ramp Design Alternative
 - Horizontally realign the northbound on-ramp instead of the northbound off-Ramp.
 - Reconfiguration of the park-and-ride next to the northbound on-ramp.
- Schedule and Cost
 - The proposed total construction cost is \$33.5 Million, including incidentals, contingencies and estimated utility cost.
 - Construction is expected to begin in spring 2028.

Public Comments:

- Several attendees commented about the proposed redevelopment of the Westbrook Outlets possibly being impacted by the project. These comments include:
 - Concerns with load restrictions on Bridge No. 00232 during the reconstruction while construction for the redevelopment is also occurring.
 - Concerns with the removal of one of the left-turn lanes onto Flat Rock Place from Route 153 when traffic volumes are anticipated to increase with the redevelopment.
 - If an access road from Route 166 can be provided to the redevelopment site.
- Several attendees were concerned that the proposed bridge would continue to be impacted.
- Existing signal timing was noted to be an issue and was requested to be adjusted prior to construction of the project.
- Several attendees commented on the response times for emergency vehicles during construction. These comments include:
 - Concerns with the closures of the I-95 Exit 65 Interchange ramps causing delays for ambulances reaching Middlesex Health Medical Center from I-95.
 - CTDOT noted that pre-emption devices will be installed on the temporary traffic signals used for the alternating one-way traffic pattern over the bridge.
- A resident expressed concerns that the lack of traffic signals at the 64 and 66 interchanges would increase the travel times for the proposed detours.
- A resident expressed concerns with detoured traffic resorting to using other roadways within the community.
- Several attendees commented about other CTDOT projects occurring in Westbrook and expressed concerns on the impacts it would have to the community if construction overlapped. The projects included:
 - Rehabilitation of the Singing Bridge (Bridge No. 00349)
 - Rehabilitation of the Bridge No. 00228 which carries Route 145 over I-95
 - Traffic signal installation at the I-95 64 Interchange.
- Impacts to businesses near the project such as Kiwi Roots Farm and Westbrook Honda should be considered when planning the construction for this project.
- Residents that live near the project expressed concerns about the water main and electrical utility relocations causing water and electricity being shut off in their homes during construction.
- A representative for Cypress Cemetery expressed concerns about impacts to the cemetery and the access on Old Connector 153.
- Concerns about the federal government providing the funding for the project and causing delays.

Adjournment:

The CTDOT encouraged the attendees to submit comments, pointing participants to various methods of submittal which were all provided in the handout received. A two-week comment period, that runs until December 26, 2025, is provided for stakeholders and citizens to submit comments. The project was generally well received by attendees. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.