

**Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Project No. 0172-0529
Replacement/Removal of Various Retaining Walls Located in Plainfield, Portland, and Windham**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026
Zoom Webinar**

Minutes of Virtual Public Information Meeting

Presenters/Speakers:

Francisco Fadul (CTDOT)
Kathleen Ericson (CTDOT)
Karl Stanek, Jr. (CHA)
Brian Chamberlin (Jacobs)

Consultant Liaison Engineer (CLE) Attendees:

Jennifer Vasquez (CHA)
Naomi Cohen (CHA)

Public Attendees:

(5) via Zoom, (0) via Phone

Presentation:

A virtual presentation was held through a Zoom Webinar for the project. The presentation began at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Francisco Fadul (CTDOT) began the meeting with a few words. Mr. Karl Stanek (CHA) provided an introduction to the presentation, which included discussing the format for the presentation, reviewing the methods for public interaction during the live presentation and during the comment period, and introducing the project team. Ms. Kathleen Ericson (CTDOT) provided an overview of CTDOT's Rights-Of-Way (ROW) process. The technical portion of the presentation was then delivered by Mr. Brian Chamberlin (Jacobs), with Mr. Francisco Fadul moderating the live Q&A Sessions that occurred following the technical discussion of each retaining wall. The following items were presented as part of the technical portion of the presentation:

The Purpose of the project is to address the deficiencies of the retaining walls to accommodate safe travel for all facility users of the roadways.

The Project Needs include the following:

- Identify and repair, remove, or replace sections of the deteriorated walls.
- Maintain the stability of the retaining walls or slopes.
- Maintain functionality of all utilities throughout the sites.
- Maintain travel on roadways during and after construction.

Mr. Chamberlin discussed the following general project information, before elaborating on the existing conditions, anticipated project scope and proposed project details and impacts for each wall:

- The project consists of the removal of Retaining Wall No. RW-108-012-001 in Plainfield and Retaining Wall No. RW-163-203-001 in Windham, as well as the replacement of Retaining Wall No. RW-112-017-001 in Portland.
- The estimated Construction cost is approximately \$4 million total for all three walls (100% State).
- Construction of all walls is anticipated to begin in Spring 2028 and conclude in Fall 2028.

RW-108-012-001 in Plainfield:

- The proposed work consists mostly of the following:
 - Remove the existing wall, and regrade the slope behind the wall
 - Mill and overlay pavement in northbound lane
 - Full-depth pavement reconstruction and widening of northbound shoulder
- M&PT will be accomplished by shifting traffic northwest and maintaining one lane in each direction.
- Environmental impacts are anticipated, as the project is located in a FEMA Flood Zone.
- Impacts are anticipated to the existing utilities and drainage, and include the following:
 - Approximately (2) utility poles will need to be relocated
 - No anticipated impacts to the underground utilities
 - Curbing to be installed along the southbound shoulder, and widening of the roadway will cause an increase in impervious area
- ROW impacts are anticipated as part of this project, and include the following:
 - Permanent easement to grade
 - Temporary construction easement to access downgradient side of slope

RW-112-017-001 in Portland:

- The proposed work consists mostly of the following:
 - Replace the existing wall with a pre-fabricated Modular Wall
 - Full-depth pavement reconstruction and widening of northbound shoulder
- M&PT will be accomplished with temporary signalized alternating one-way traffic.
- Environmental impacts are anticipated and include the following:
 - Tree removal/clearing and grubbing
- Impacts are anticipated to the existing utilities and drainage, and include the following:
 - Approximately (5) utility poles will need to be relocated
 - Catch basins will be installed along the northbound shoulder
 - An underdrain and drainage swale will be installed behind the wall
- ROW impacts are anticipated as part of this project, and include the following:
 - Permanent easement to grade

RW-163-203-001 in Windham:

- The proposed work consists mostly of the following:
 - Remove the existing wall and install a riprap embankment slope
 - Mill and overlay pavement in northbound lane
 - Full-depth pavement reconstruction and widening of northbound shoulder
- M&PT will be accomplished with temporary signalized alternating one-way traffic.
- Environmental impacts are anticipated and include the following:
 - Tree removal/clearing
- Impacts are anticipated to the existing utilities and drainage, and include the following:
 - Temporary relocation of overhead utilities

- Installation of catch basin on south end
- ROW impacts are anticipated as part of this project, and include the following:
 - Permanent Take (for the portion of the existing road currently outside of State ROW)
 - Permanent Slope and Drainage Easements
 - Temporary Construction Easement

Public Comments and Questions:

There were five (5) questions/comments from the Public during the live Question and Answer sessions that followed the technical portion of the presentation for each wall. They are as follows, along with the responses provided by the design team:

Plainfield (RW-108-012-001) Questions:

Kevin Cunningham: Do you have a site chosen for material and equipment storage?

Response: Not yet as it is still early in the design process. Those details will be addressed once we begin the formal design process. We will work with the Town for site selection as needed, for a stockpile area or construction staging.

Karl Stanek, Sr.: How long is the timeframe to complete the process?

Response: The exact timeframe for construction of the wall hasn't been determined yet, as we are still early in the design process. But all of the work will be done in a single construction season.

Portland (RW-112-017-001) Questions:

Matthew Gondek: Will all of the trees be removed to the top of the slope and then reestablish erosion control? Also, will access be needed through the property to the north end of the wall?

Response: Not all of the trees will be removed on the slope; only those trees necessary for construction will be removed. Also, no access will be needed from the private property at the north end, and therefore no impacts are anticipated. The anticipated construction sequence includes working from below. If things do change in design, the State will coordinate with impacted property owners.

Windham (RW-163-203-001) and Final Questions:

Kevin Cunningham: Thank you for presenting this information to the towns and the public at this early stage.

Response: Thank you very much for the comment. To add, the State does have a public outreach program that we do follow strictly, and we do present to the municipalities and to the public to gather comments in helping us develop the design for these projects. We appreciate your comment.

Matthew Gondek: How can we acquire the drawings presented here?

Response: The presentation will be published to CTDOT's YouTube channel. You can search on there for the project number. We provide additional information (including the drawings shown in the presentation) on the project's webpage. You can email us at the project email address if you have more specific questions or need additional follow-up.

There were two (2) questions received from the Public during the two-week comment period, which concluded on June 10, 2026. Those questions are as follows:

Rene Comtois: Hello. I am the managing member of RPC Properties LLC, at 12-20 Norwich Road in Plainfield, where the proposed retaining wall project (RW-108-012-001) of the above referenced project is located, directly across the road from our shopping plaza (aka/ Moosup River Commons).

My questions are, how will this affect access to the shopping plaza, and for how long will this project be expected to take place? Also, when is this project expected to start?

Response: Hello Rene. Sorry for the delayed response. Last night we held a virtual public information meeting on this project. Access to local businesses and residences will not be impaired during or after construction work for the wall you referenced. The project duration is still being refined as we develop design plans. However, we anticipate no more than one construction season for any of the walls in this project. A construction season usually runs from April to November. We anticipate construction of this wall to begin in Spring of 2028, subject to change as design develops, and subject to availability of state/federal funds.

Adjournment: The project was generally well received by those attending the meeting. The live virtual presentation concluded at approximately 7:36 pm.

Submitted by: _____
Naomi Karen Cohen, Client Project Coordinator
CHA Consulting, Inc. (CHA- CLE)

Reviewed by: _____
Karl C. Stanek, Jr. Project Engineer
CHA Consulting, Inc. (CHA- CLE)

Concurred by: _____
Francisco Fadul, P.E., Transportation Supervising Engineer
Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)