

**Connecticut Department of Transportation
State Project No. 0173-0539
Rehabilitation of Retaining Wall Nos. RW-157-053-001 and RW-157-053-002 on Route 53
Weston, CT**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Zoom Webinar**

Minutes of Virtual Public Information Meeting

Presenters/Speakers:

Francisco Fadul (CTDOT - Project Manager)
Malcolm Thomas (CTDOT - Rights of Way Coordinator)
Karl Stanek, Jr. (CHA Consulting - Project Engineer)
Mark Habek (Benesch - Lead Designer)

Consultant Liaison Engineer (CLE) Attendees:

Jennifer Vazquez (CHA Consulting)
Naomi Cohen (CHA Consulting)

Public Attendees:

(2) 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. 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. Mr. Malcolm Thomas (CTDOT) provided an overview of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT's) Rights-Of-Way (ROW) process. The technical portion of the presentation was then delivered by Mr. Mark Habek (Benesch), with Mr. Francisco Fadul moderating the live Q&A Session that occurred following the technical discussion. 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 roadway.

The Project Needs include the following:

- Identify and repair, remove or replace retaining walls that are bulging, deteriorated, or otherwise compromised.
- Remove any vegetation that may be contributing to destabilizing the wall or causing structural damage.
- Maintain stability of the walls if left in place or reconstructed.
- Maintain functionality of all utilities throughout the site.
- Maintain travel on Route 53 (Newtown Turnpike) during and after construction.
- Address any issues with water damage behind or beneath the wall.

Mr. Habek indicated that the project consists of the rehabilitation of Retaining Wall Nos. RW-157-053-001 and RW-157-053-002 on Route 53 (Newtown Turnpike) in Weston. He then elaborated on the existing conditions, anticipated project scope and proposed project details and impacts for each wall.

RW-157-053-001 on Route 53 in Weston:

- The proposed work consists mostly of the following:
 - Permanently relocate overhead utilities to northbound side of roadway
 - Rehabilitate the existing wall:
 - Install tiebacks through existing wall
 - Install geocomposite drainage strips along existing wall face
 - Apply an initial shotcrete facing
 - Apply final cast-in-place reinforced facing with simulated stone masonry
 - Install concrete cap atop the wall
 - Install drainage ditch at base of wall
 - Replace existing concrete lip curbing
 - Install protective fence behind wall
- M&PT will be accomplished by utilizing signal controlled alternating one-way traffic
- Impacts are anticipated to include the following:
 - Environmental - Tree removal is required; no anticipated impacts to regulated areas
 - Utilities - Overhead utilities will need to be permanently relocated
 - Drainage - Drainage ditch to be installed at the base of the proposed wall
 - ROW - No ROW impacts to adjacent properties anticipated

RW-157-053-002 on Route 53 in Weston:

- The proposed work consists mostly of the following:
 - Temporarily brace the utility pole at the south end of the existing wall to remove the guy pole (guy pole to be replaced post construction)
 - Rehabilitate the existing wall:
 - Install tiebacks through existing wall
 - Install geocomposite drainage strips along existing wall face
 - Apply an initial shotcrete facing
 - Apply final cast-in-place reinforced facing with simulated stone masonry
 - Install concrete cap atop wall
 - Install drainage ditch at base of wall
 - Replace existing concrete lip curbing
 - Install protective fence behind wall
 - Remove and reset catch basin
- M&PT will be accomplished by utilizing signal controlled alternating one-way traffic
- Impacts are anticipated to include the following:
 - Environmental - Tree removal is required; no anticipated impacts to regulated areas
 - Utilities - Guy-pole at the south end of wall will need to be removed temporarily and the associated utility pole will require temporary bracing
 - Drainage - Drainage ditch to be installed at the base of the proposed wall; the catch basin at the south end of the wall will be removed prior to construction and reset post-construction
 - ROW - No ROW impacts to adjacent properties anticipated

Mr. Habek concluded the technical portion of the presentation by discussing the current estimated construction costs and anticipated schedule.

- The estimated Construction cost is approximately \$3.2 million total for both walls.
 - Currently 100% State Funds (Could utilize federal funds).
- Construction of all walls is anticipated to begin Spring 2028 and conclude Fall 2028.

There were zero (0) questions/discussion topics from the Public.

Adjournment: The project was generally well received by those attending the meeting. The live virtual presentation was closed at approximately 7:01 pm.

Public Comments and Questions:

There was one (1) question received from the Public during the two-week comment period, which concluded on July 1, 2026.

Dan Gilbert: I'd appreciate knowing the projected start date of RW-157-053-002. The rehabilitation work will be done directly below our home. Thanks very much for your help.

Response: A public informational meeting for this project was held June 17th, I've included a link to the project webpage below. We anticipate construction on this site to commence in Spring of 2028, subject to the availability of funding and permit approvals. As the project progresses, we will have a better idea of which month the work will begin. The comment period is open until July 1st if you'd like to ask any further questions.

Project Webpage Link: [0173-0539 Weston](#)

Submitted by: _____
Karl C. Stanek, Jr., Project Engineer
CHA Consulting, Inc.

Reviewed by: _____
Robert R. Bahler, Project Manager
CHA Consulting, Inc.

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