Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail Connections

# Feasibility Study

## Informational Webinar

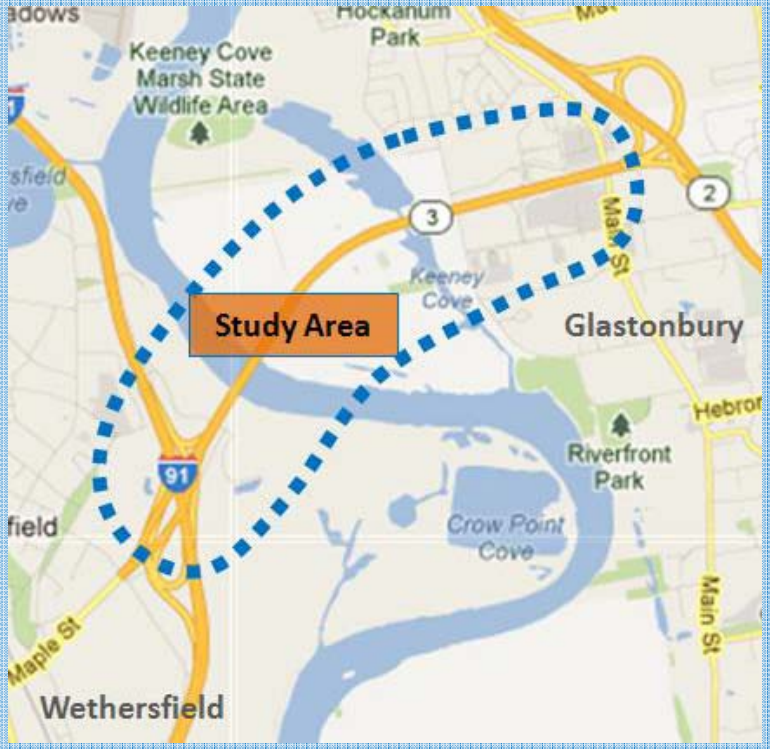
February 27, 2013

# Webinar Agenda

- Study Overview
- Scope & Schedule
- Preliminary Goals
- Design Considerations
- Maps
- Other Study Information
- Questions & Discussion


# Study Overview

- **Purpose**
  - Advance planning work for bike/pedestrian access to bridge
  - Evaluate potential connections to the transportation network




# Scope & Schedule

- **Task 1** | Project Coordination
  - CTDOT/Stakeholder Coordination Meetings
  - Advisory Committee Meetings
  - Public Information Meeting (Late Spring 2013)
- **Task 2** | Data Collection and Research
  - Existing Multimodal Accommodations and Services
  - Plans, Reports, Studies, GIS Data
  - Site Visits


# Scope & Schedule

- **Task 3** | Alternatives Development and Evaluation
  - Conceptual Design Parameters
  - Preliminary Alternatives Development
  - Alternatives Refinement and Preferred Alternative Selection (Late Spring 2013)
- **Task 4** | Documentation
  - Draft and Final Reports (Fall 2013)

# *Preliminary* Planning & Design Goals

## Maximize Transportation and Recreational Utility

The design of the multimodal trail connections to the Putnam Bridge walkway should promote year-round use as a transportation and recreational facility by maximizing the following:

- **Accessibility.** Incorporate design standards and features that: accommodate a variety of users (bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters, etc.); provide ease of maintenance; and facilitate reliable passage throughout the year.
- **Connectivity.** Link the multimodal trail to existing bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities; provide opportunities for future connectivity; and enhance access to other nearby community and recreational facilities.
- **Comfort and Security.** Create a comfortable user experience by mitigating the impacts of adjacent highways (traffic noise, road spray, headlight glare, etc.) and by providing measures to enhance user safety along the trail and at its termini.

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## Minimize Impacts

The design of the multimodal trail connections should be sensitive to the context of the surrounding area by minimizing or avoiding negative effects on the following:

- **Environmental Resources.** Minimize the direct and indirect impacts of the planned trail on wetlands, floodplains, natural habitats, and other resources in the area.
- **Private Property.** Minimize the need to acquire rights or land from private property owners.
- **Existing Infrastructure.** Avoid costly impacts to existing roadways, bridges, and utilities.


# *Preliminary* Planning & Design Goals

## Facilitate Implementation

The planning and design processes for the multimodal trail connections should build community and agency support for the project, ultimately lending to its implementation, by addressing the following:

- **Community Needs and Priorities.** Respond to community input on the design and long-term functional aspects of the trail.
- **Fiscal Constraints.** Provide cost-effective design solutions that reasonably satisfy the other project goals of maximizing utility and minimizing impacts. Consider a variety of funding and implementation mechanisms for project components.
- **Agency Requirements.** Respond to regulatory agency input on the design and permitting requirements of the trail to facilitate subsequent approval processes.

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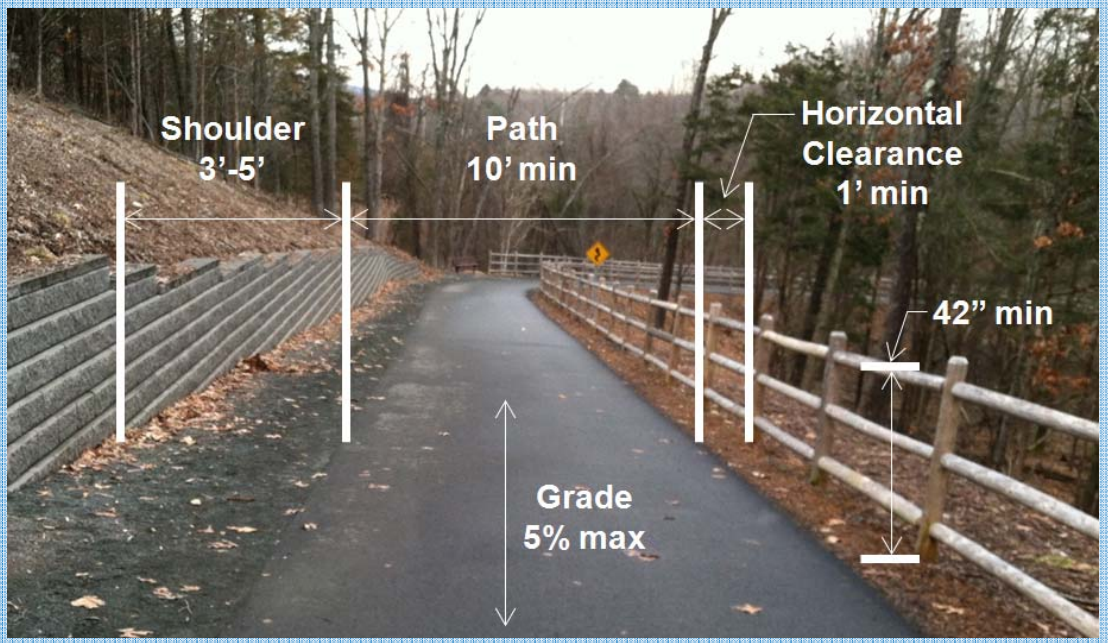
# Design Considerations

- **Shared Use Path** | Definition
  - Bikeway physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by open space or barrier
  - Used by pedestrians, skaters, joggers, wheelchair users, others
  - Most designed for two-way travel

- **Design Standards**

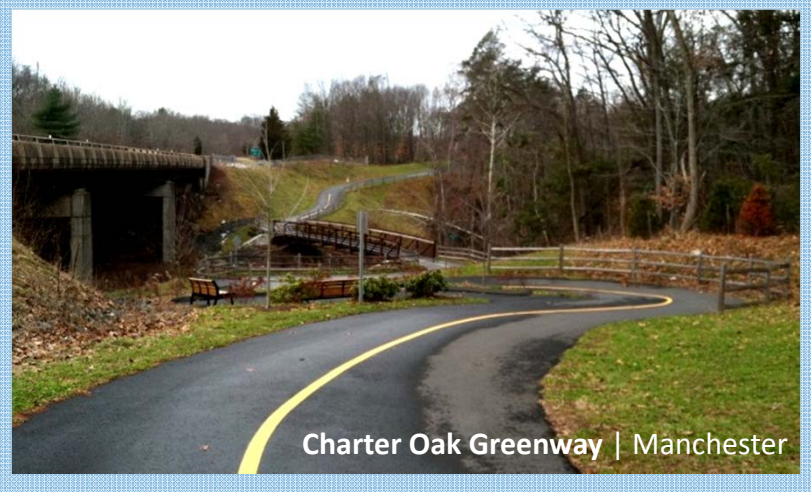



**Smith School Greenway** | Glastonbury

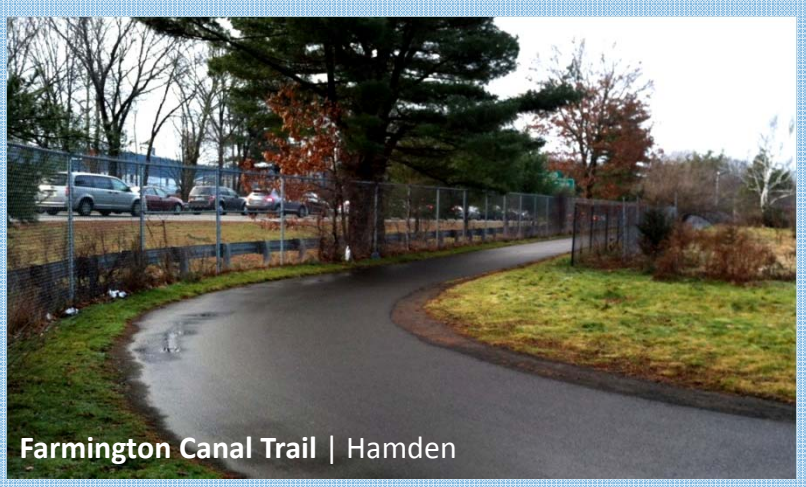
# Design Considerations

## » **Shared Use Path** | Examples

**I-890 Shared Use Path** | Schenectady, NY



**Charter Oak Greenway** | Manchester



**Farmington Canal Trail** | Hamden

**Quinnipiac River Linear Trail** | Wallingford

# Design Considerations

- **Walkway Location**
  - Northbound Side of Putnam Bridge
- **Path Termini**
  - Connectivity – Sidewalks, Bike Facilities, Transit, Origins/Destinations
  - Safety – Crossings, Traffic Volumes, Visibility, Sight Lines
  - Accommodations – Trailhead Amenities, Parking


# Design Considerations

- What are the opportunities & constraints?
- What are the user needs?
- What is important to you?
- What is most important to you?


# Other Study Information

## Next Steps

- Preliminary Alternatives Development
- Public Meeting – Late Spring 2013

## Contacts

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## Study Web Page

- Google: *"CTDOT Putnam Study"*