

## **Project 0320-0008 PIM Report of Meeting**

On Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the project team presented **State Project No. 0320-0008, Hartford Line Rail Program Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield**, at a Public Information Meeting held at Windsor Locks Town Hall. The presentation covered the purpose of the project, planned double track improvements in two locations along the Hartford Line, anticipated right of way needs, schedule, and estimated cost. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation.

### **Brief Background on the Project**

This project will improve safety, reliability, and capacity on the Hartford Line by restoring double track in two segments. One area is a continuous double track segment that extends through Windsor and Windsor Locks. The second area is a separate double track segment that is located within Enfield. Work includes trackside drainage upgrades, new signal equipment, and grade crossing improvements. Some right of way impacts are anticipated.

### **Highlights from the Presentation**

- The purpose and need to restore double track to improve safety, reliability, and capacity on the Hartford Line
- Overview of the Hartford Line Rail Program and the ongoing effort to restore double track along the corridor
- Description of the two project areas, including the double track segment through Windsor and Windsor Locks and the separate double track segment in Enfield
- Planned drainage improvements, new signal equipment, and grade crossing upgrades at Bridge Street and the Ahlstrom emergency access crossing
- Investigation of potential closure of Trolley Barn crossing
- Summary of anticipated right of way needs, including partial acquisitions, temporary and permanent easements
- Overview of the right of way process and property owner coordination
- Combined estimated cost of approximately 235 million dollars
- Construction anticipated to begin in Spring 2027 with expected completion in Fall 2030, subject to funding, permits, and right of way acquisition

### **During the Q&A session, questions posed by attendees included:**

1. **Question:** Will the State be doing anything related to the Amtrak bridge over the CT River?  
**Answer:** Amtrak has received federal funding to study improvements or replacement of the bridge, and that work is underway or soon to begin.
2. **Question:** Are there two tracks on the Connecticut River bridge, and are both active?  
**Answer:** Two tracks are installed on the bridge, and one is currently in service.
3. **Question:** How many trains pass through Windsor Locks today, and what increase is expected?  
**Answer:** Current daily passenger service is approximately thirty-one trains systemwide. Future

frequency depends on ridership, scheduling, equipment availability, and coordination with operating partners.

4. **Question:** What will be the impact on local traffic when trains stop at the Bridge Street crossing?  
**Answer:** The project includes upgrades at Bridge Street, and municipalities can pursue Quiet Zone designation. Crossing improvements may help meet requirements, although train crews may still sound horns when needed.
5. **Question:** Will one track be used for freight and the other for passenger service?  
**Answer:** Both tracks will be used by freight and passenger services as dispatched.
6. **Question:** What is the Trolley Barn?  
**Answer:** It is an older private crossing near the Windsor Locks town line.
7. **Question:** Does increased capacity mean more trains per day or longer trains?  
**Answer:** Increased capacity supports more frequent service, not necessarily additional cars on trains.
8. **Question:** How is the project useful before the Connecticut River bridge supports two active tracks?  
**Answer:** Additional double track reduces bottlenecks and improves operations while larger structures are addressed separately.
9. **Question:** How do potential rail improvements in Massachusetts relate to this corridor?  
**Answer:** Massachusetts is evaluating east west rail improvements. Connecticut is coordinating with partner states and Amtrak.
10. **Question:** Why is only one track active on the Connecticut River bridge?  
**Answer:** Freight weight limits govern usage. Track alignment was shifted during prior rehabilitation to maintain service during construction.
11. **Question:** When will the pedestrian bridge over the canal open?  
**Answer:** A new bridge pick is planned for this weekend. Opening is anticipated early summer after additional work.
12. **Question:** Is the Main Street utility pole relocation part of this project?  
**Answer:** It is a separate but related project that supports double track installation. Utility work is expected to begin April 1.

There were 11 members of the public in attendance and 3 town representatives including the first selectman. The meeting began at 6:04 PM and concluded at 7:00 PM. Public feedback was engaged and generally positive. Comments will be accepted through February 11, 2026 and the presentation will be posted on the project website.