

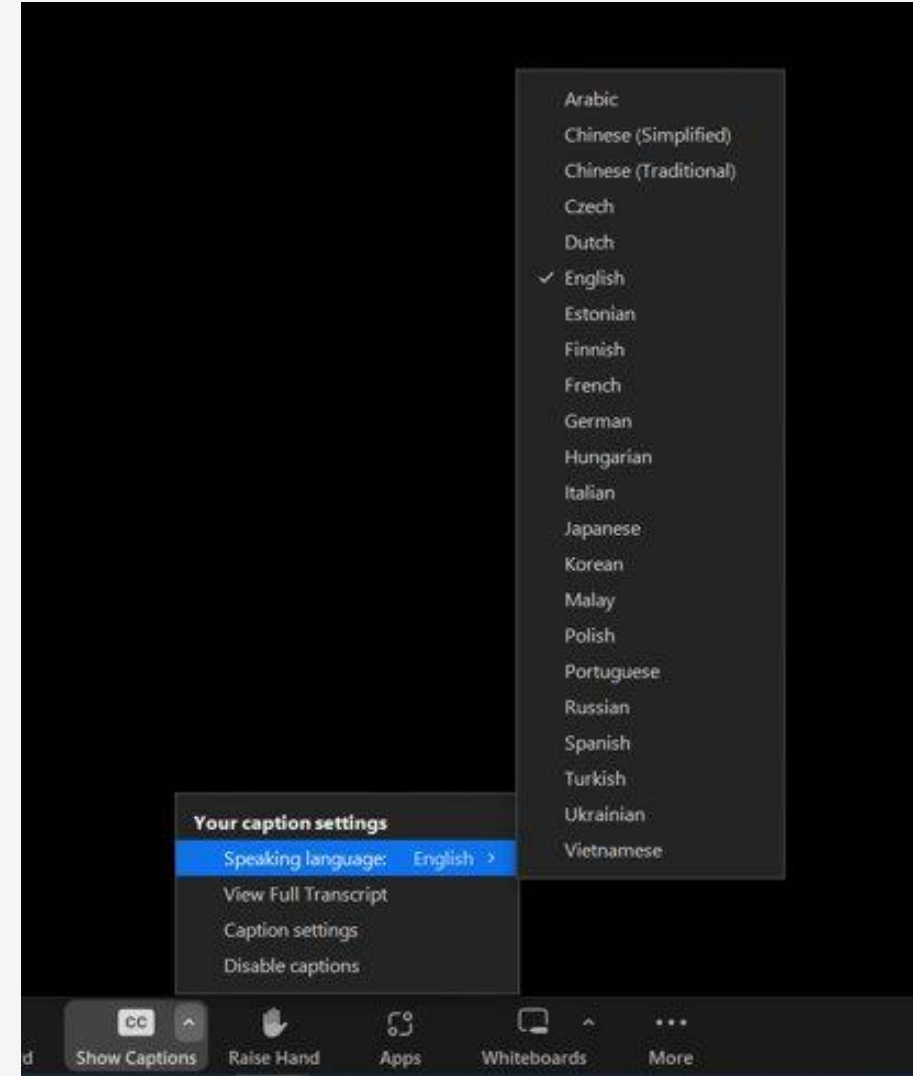
Heroes Tunnel State Project Number 0167-0108

Public Information and CEPA Scoping Meeting | January 12, 2026

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Title VI – Your Civil Rights

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation or subject to discrimination in the development of this project.

- Voluntary Post-Meeting Survey:
 - portal.ct.gov/ctdotsurvey
- Civil Rights information:
 - portal.ct.gov/dot/equity/title-vi



A recording of this presentation will be posted to CTDOT's YouTube channel after the event.

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Connecticut Department of Transportation Title VI Notice to the Public

Individuals and organizations may file a complaint by completing the Title VI complaint form (portal.ct.gov/dot/equity/title-vi). Complaints should be signed and include contact information and should be sent to: Office of Civil Rights Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE ROA-10, Mail Stop 5 Washington, DC 20590

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the CTDOT.

For more information on the CTDOT's civil rights program, and the procedures to file a complaint, contact the CTDOT Title VI Coordinator at (860) 594-2169, TRS 711; Debra.Goss@ct.gov; or visit our administrative office at 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/dot.

A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration by filing a complaint with the FTA Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590

A complainant may file a complaint directly with the Federal Highway Administration by filing a complaint with the FHWA Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, 8th Floor E81-105, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590

如需更多信息或免费语言协助，请致电 (860) 594-2109

Para información adicional, o asistencia lingüística gratuita, por favor llame al (860) 594-2109

Per informazioni aggiuntive o assistenza linguistica gratuita, chiamare il numero (860) 594-2109

Para obter mais informações, ou para auxílio gratuito em outro idioma, ligue para (860) 594-2109

Aby uzyskać dodatkowe informacje lub bezpłatną pomoc tłumacza, proszę dzwonić pod numer (860) 594-2109

Для получения подробной информации или бесплатных услуг перевода звоните по телефону (860) 594-2109

Pou jwenn plis enfòmasyon, oswa asistans ak lang gratis, ranpri rele (860) 594-2109

لمزيد من المعلومات أو للحصول على مساعدة لغوية مجانية، يرجى الاتصال بالرقم (860) 594-2109

Si vous souhaitez en savoir plus ou bénéficier d'une assistance linguistique gratuite, merci de composer le numéro suivant (860) 594-2109

अधिक जानकारी या निःशुल्क भाषा संबंधी सहायता के लिए कृपया (860) 594-2109 पर कॉल करें।

추가 정보가 필요하거나 무료 언어 지원이 필요하시면 (860) 594-2109로 전화하십시오.

Để có thêm thông tin hoặc hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí, vui lòng gọi (860) 594-2109

Question & Answer Session



By Email: heroestunnel@ct.gov



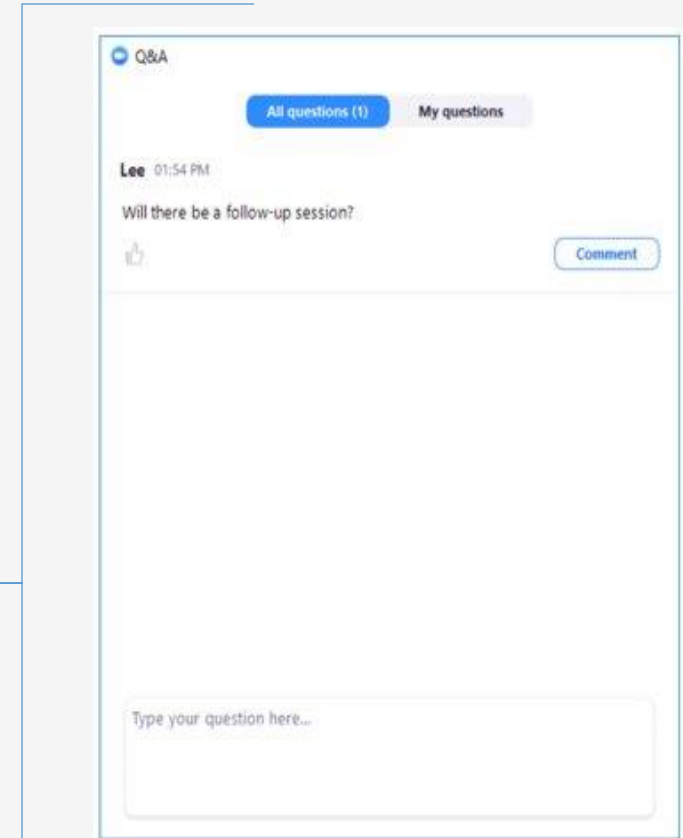
By Phone: (860) 594-2020



On Zoom: Q&A



Project Webpage:
portal.ct.gov/heroestunnel



Moderator will answer questions
in Zoom Q&A function

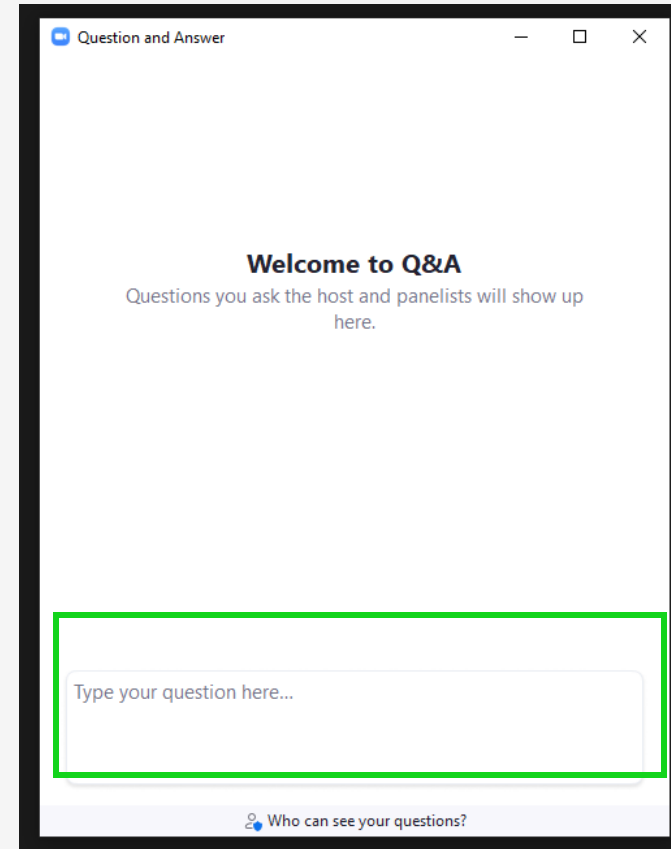
Note: Comment period is open through **January 28, 2026**

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- (2) The Q&A window will open as seen on the right.
- (3) Please type question in the textbox & click enter.



Welcome & Introductions

CTDOT Team



Derick Lessard, PE
Division Chief



Bao Chuong, PE
Principal Engineer



Tracey Brais, PE
Supervising Engineer



Sushil Dahal, PE
Project Engineer



Kevin Fleming
Transportation
Supervising
Planner



Kathleen Ericson
Rights-of-Way
Project
Coordinator

Consultant Team



Michael Egan, PE
Project Manager



Mahmood Khwaja, PE
Design Manager
Tunnel Engineer



Carl Duesler, PE, PTOE
Lead
Traffic Engineer



Jonathan Geary, PE
Lead Highway
Engineer



Jong Supasit, PE
Lead
Electrical Engineer



Belen Michelis
Public Involvement
Lead

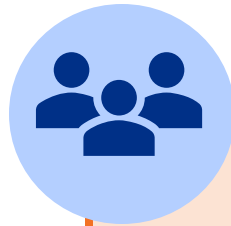
Sub-Consultant Team



Meeting Purpose



**Provide project
overview &
status**



**Obtain public
input**



**Respond to
public comment**

Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

CEPA Core Purpose

- Identify & assess potential environmental impacts
 - Evaluate alternatives to avoid or minimize such impacts
 - Public Involvement
-
- CEPA review required for any State action that could have major impact on the environmental, social, and/or economic resources



Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

Physical

- Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Traffic
- Utilities & Services
- Stormwater
- Solid & Hazardous Waste
- Aesthetics & Scenic Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy Use

Natural

- Erosion or Sedimentation
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Fisheries
- Plants & Wildlife/
State Listed Species
- Changing Climate/Resilience

Socioeconomic

- Land Use & Zoning
- State, Regional and Local Land Use Planning
- Public Health & Safety
- Recreational Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Plan of Conservation & Development

Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)

What is CEPA Scoping?

- Gathering & analysis of information that a state agency will use to establish the breadth of environmental review of a proposed project.

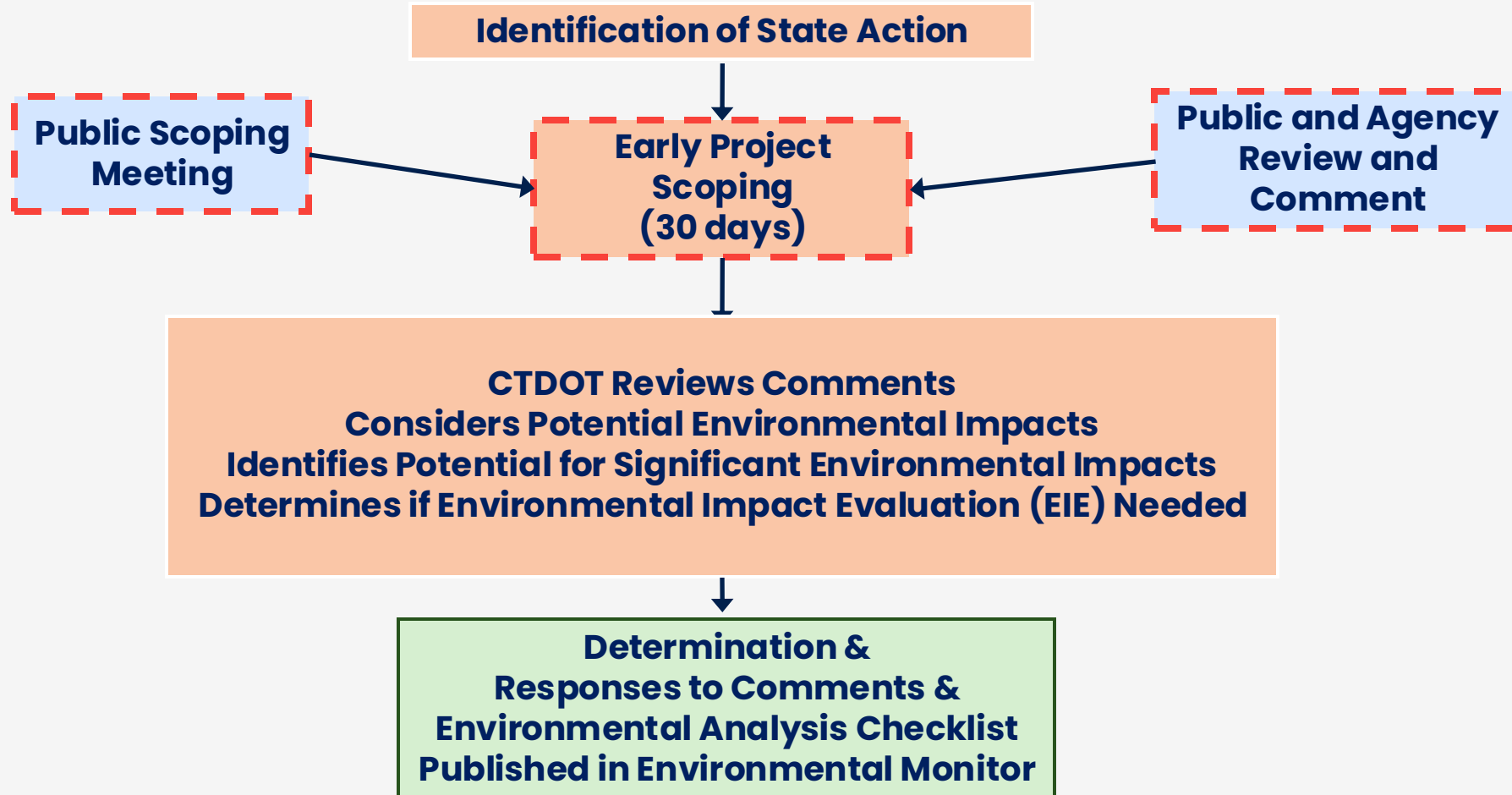
Public Scoping

- Publish Notice of Project in Environmental Monitor
- Minimum 30-day public comment period
- Identify environmental concerns/potential alternatives
- Public Scoping Meeting
- Determine if an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) is needed

<https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor---Current-Issue>



CEPA Process



Agenda

Project Overview

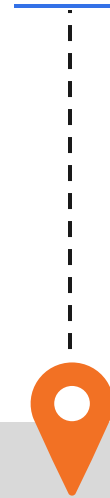
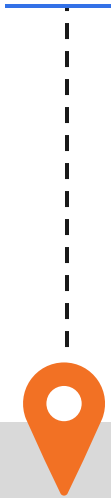
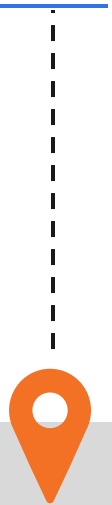
Existing
Conditions

Recommendations

Project
Schedule &
Cost

Next Steps

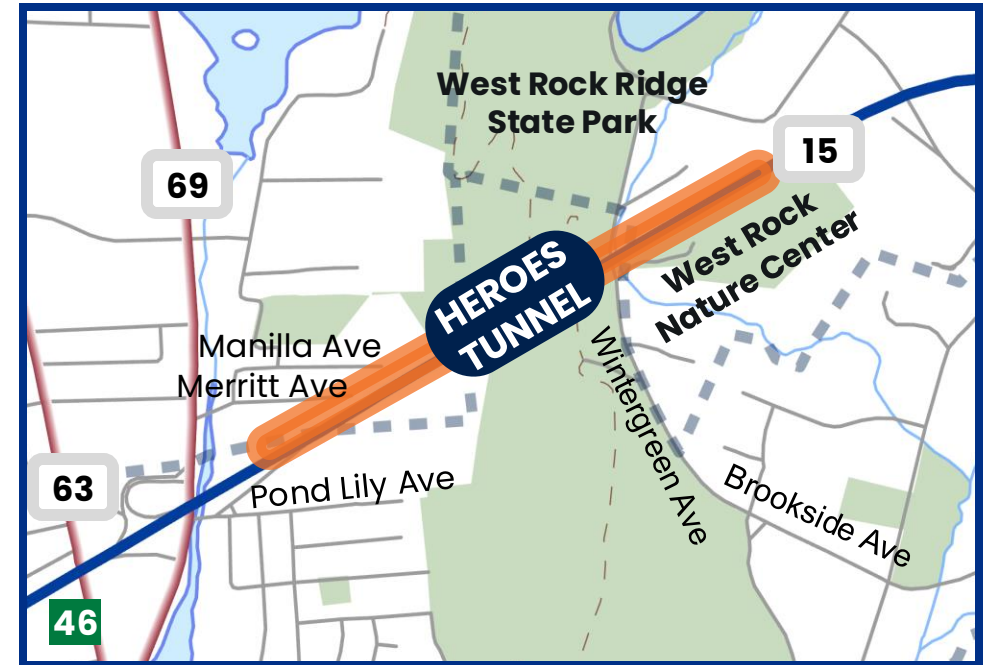
Q&A



Project Overview

What is the Heroes Tunnel Project?

The Heroes Tunnel Project is a Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) initiative to improve the **safety, reliability, & longevity** of the Wilbur Cross Parkway (Route 15) tunnel system.



Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to **correct existing deficiencies, enhance safety, improve travel, & ease maintenance** of the Heroes Tunnel.

Project Needs



Address the existing structural, mechanical, & electrical deficiencies



Reduce the need for maintenance, improve reliability, & extend service life



Improve the tunnel geometry & safety



No added traffic capacity needed

The Heroes Tunnel Project Involves:



Tunnel Liner Rehabilitation



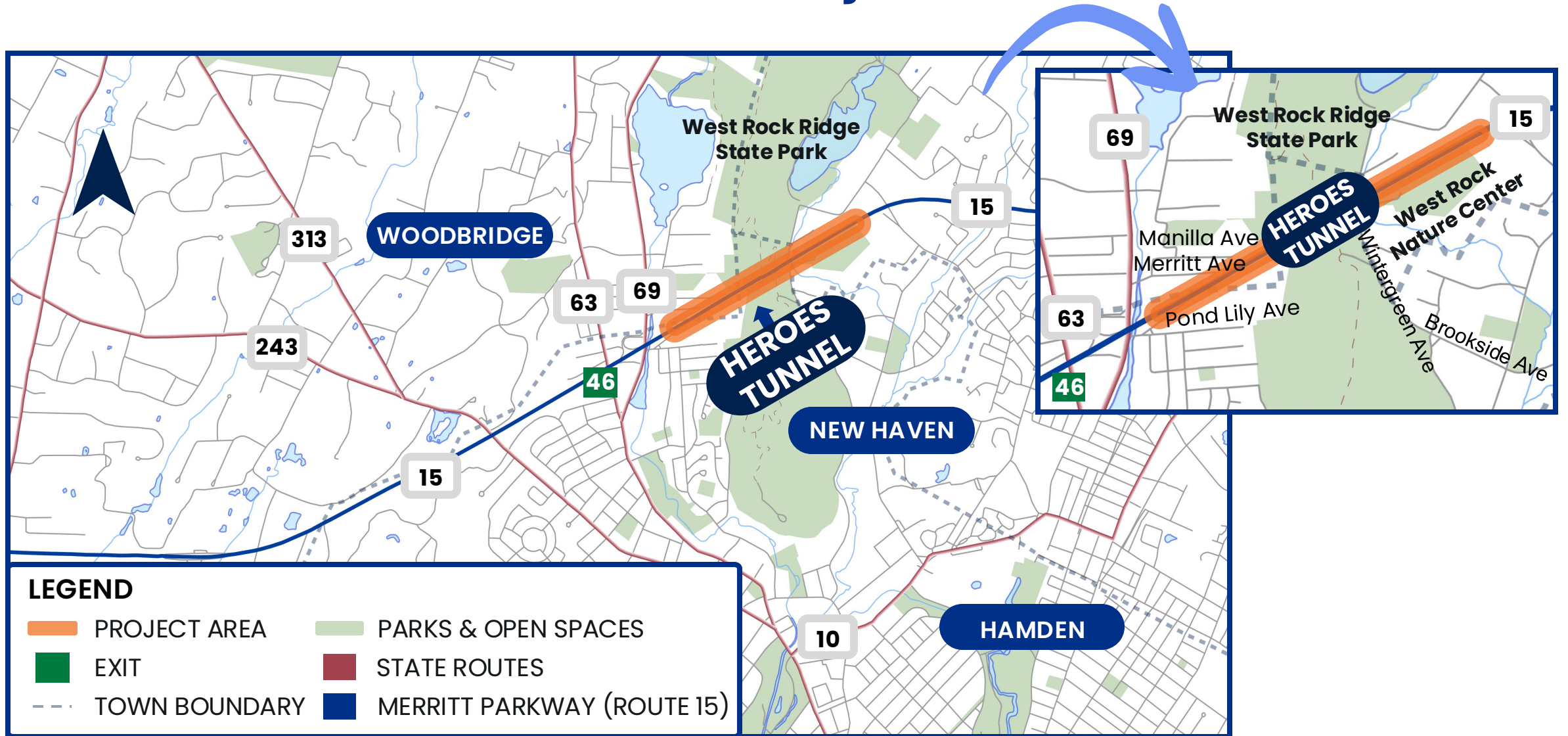
**Life Safety & Fire Protection
Upgrades**



**Full Replacement No Longer Being
Pursued (No 3rd Barrel)**

Existing Conditions

What is the Heroes Tunnel Project area?



What are the existing conditions?



Two **11.5-foot** lanes



Two **28-inch** walkways



Two **1,200 ft** barrels



Liner in **poor condition**

**Based on inspection report*



74,000 vehicles daily



30 tunnel crashes

Source: UCONN Crash Repository 2024

First Responders & Emergency Personnel Oversight

First Responders & Personnel Oversight

Coordination meetings with:

FIRE



- ✓ Emergency responders reviewed proposed improvements & provided feedback
- ✓ Emergency responders shared operational needs, including site access, response routes, etc., and design has been updated to reflect input.

EMS



POLICE



- ✓ State Fire Marshal is providing (Authority Having Jurisdiction) overall code compliance oversight
- ✓ Collaboration will continue through design to develop an emergency response plan post-construction

OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS



Recommendations

Life Safety & Fire Protection Recommendations



INCIDENT COMMAND POSTS

designated areas
for emergency
response
coordination



FIRE HYDRANTS

outdoor water
sources to use to
put out large fires



FIRE DETECTION

system that continuously
monitors for smoke or
heat and alerts people
to warn of a potential fire



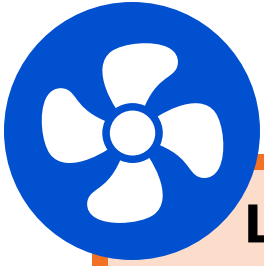
RADIO FREQUENCY BOOSTERS

devices that improve
emergency radio & cell
phone signals inside
the tunnel

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Requirements:

- ✓ Ventilation
- ✓ Emergency detection systems
- ✓ Electrical systems
- ✓ Traffic control
- ✓ Fire protection upgrades

Ventilation Recommendations



**Longitudinal
ventilation above
the traffic envelope**

8 pairs of jet fans per barrel



**Monitoring by
emissions sensors**



**Normal
operations
ventilation**



**Modified barrel
cross-section
at jet fans**



**Incident &
fire detection**



**Emergency
operations
ventilation**

Traffic Control Recommendations

How will the project improve safety and manage traffic flow during incidents?

To enhance safety & manage traffic flow in and near the Heroes Tunnel, the project team recommends a **multi-solution approach** that integrates:



OPERATIONAL UPGRADES



INCIDENT RESPONSE STRATEGIES



PORTAL TRAFFIC SIGNALS

to close portals to traffic during major incidents



LANE CONTROL SIGNALS

to close lanes during small incidents



DYNAMIC SIGNS (VMS)

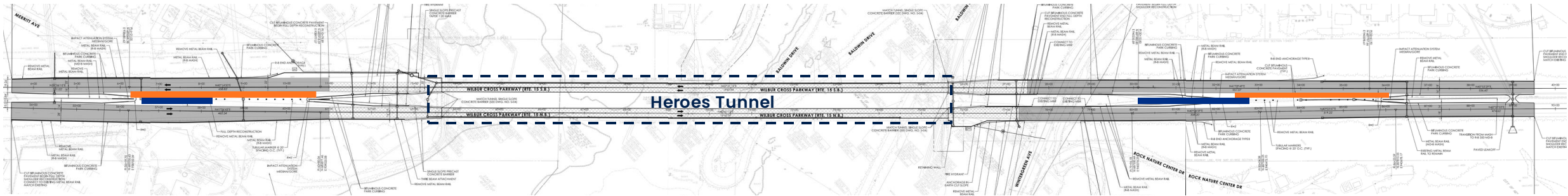
for traffic advisory & detour management



UPSTREAM WARNING SIGNAGE

to prepare vehicles to follow signals

Crossover Improvements



Existing Conditions (Blue)

- ✓ 15 mph design speed
- ✓ 125 ft southern opening
- ✓ 220 ft northern opening

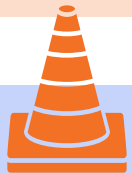
Crossover Improvements (Orange)

- ✓ 40 mph design speed
- ✓ 410 ft southern opening
- ✓ 375 ft northern opening

Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (MPT) During Construction

MPT During Construction

- ✓ Route 15 NB/SB work will be performed between 10 p.m. – 6 a.m. (**As design progresses, some daytime work may be required to complete more challenging construction tasks. This will be coordinated with the municipalities as required.*)
- ✓ Crossovers will be utilized during the work window above
- ✓ Crossovers will be improved to accept a design speed of 40 mph



No proposed detours of Route 15

Ramp detours may be required pending future coordination with Exit 46 (formerly Exit 59) Project

Egress & Wayfinding Recommendations

PROPOSED EGRESS RECOMMENDATION

Existing central control room area



Egress cross passage & tunnel ancillary equipment room

WAYFINDING RECOMMENDATIONS



Active emergency signage & wayfinding lighting

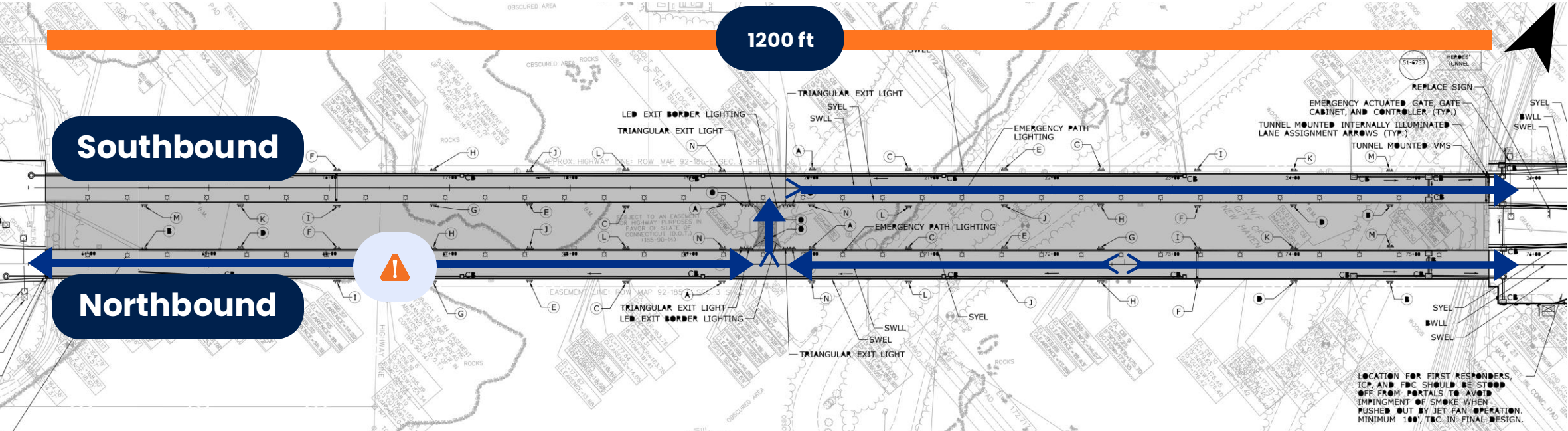


Protected circuits



Evacuee signage throughout the tunnel

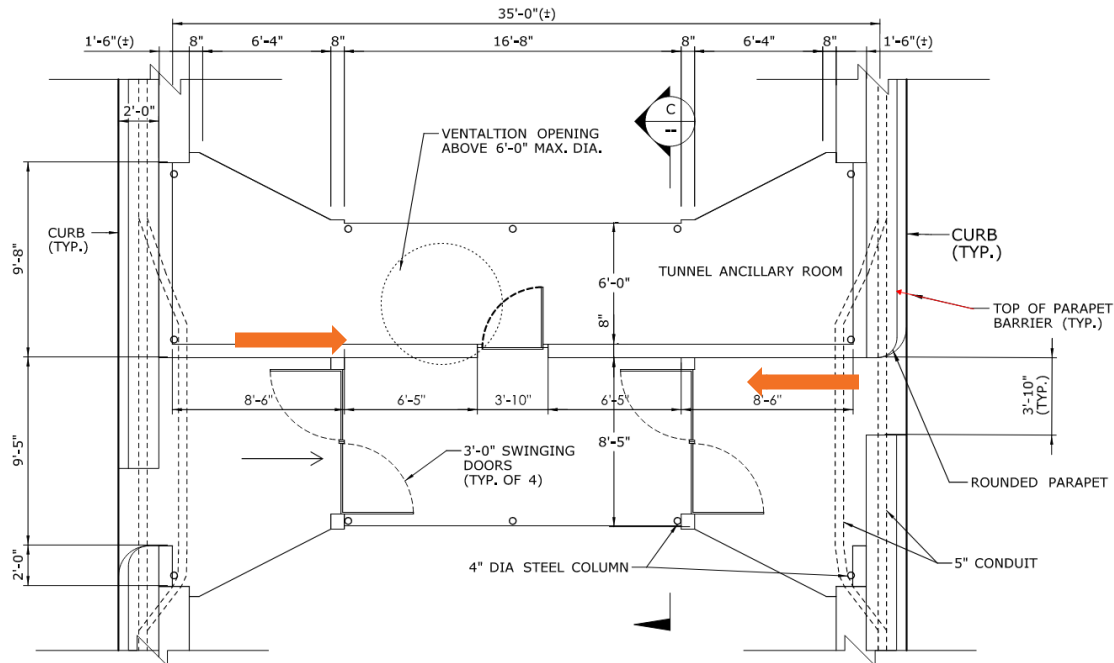
Emergency Egress Options



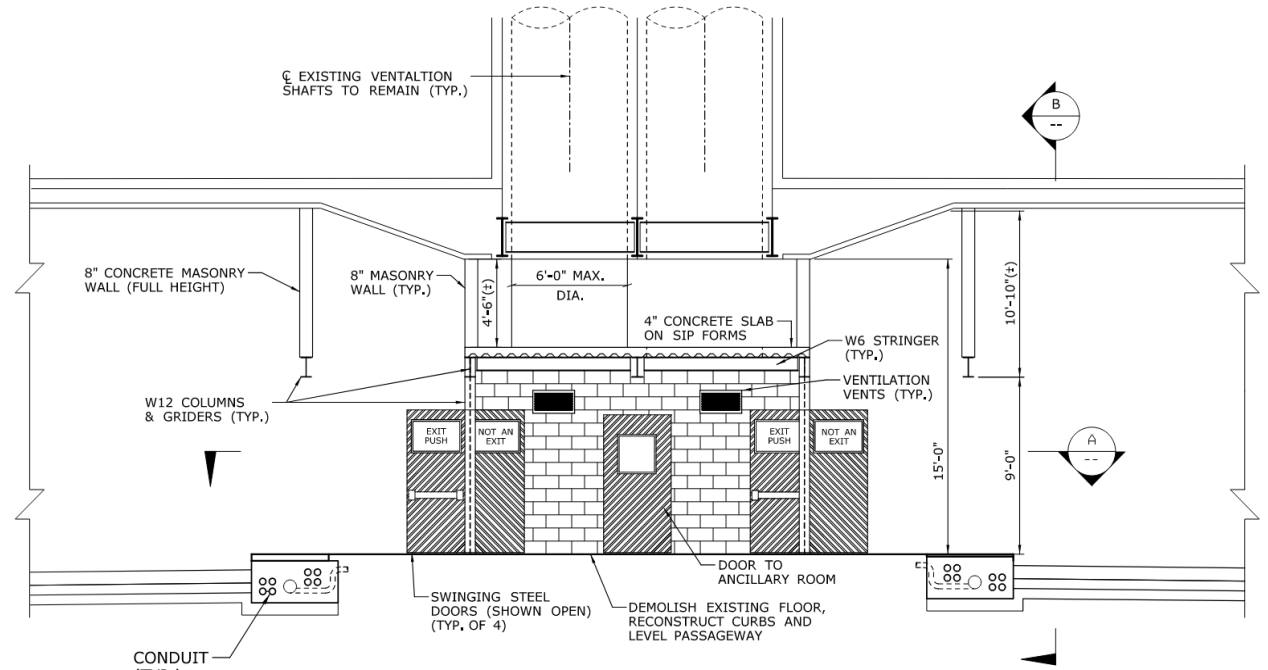
 **INCIDENT**

 **EVACUATION ROUTES**

Proposed Cross Passage



SECTION A-A
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



BUILDING SECTION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Electrical System & Illumination Considerations

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS RECOMMENDATIONS

Increased
electrical loads

Single utility
service entrance

Protected life
safety & fire
protection conduit

ILLUMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Roadway
lighting via LED
fixtures

Protected
circuits

Evacuee &
wayfinding
lighting

Heroes Tunnel Improvements



TUNNEL LINER REHABILITATION



NEW FIRE HYDRANTS



MAXIMIZE VERTICAL CLEARANCE ENVELOPE TO ACCOMMODATE NEW JET FANS



NEW FIRE DETECTION



WIDEN LANES TO 12 FT



NEW VENTILATION FANS

REPLACEMENTS:



DRAINAGE SYSTEM



PRECAST BARRIER
(to replace existing concrete curb)

ADDITIONS:

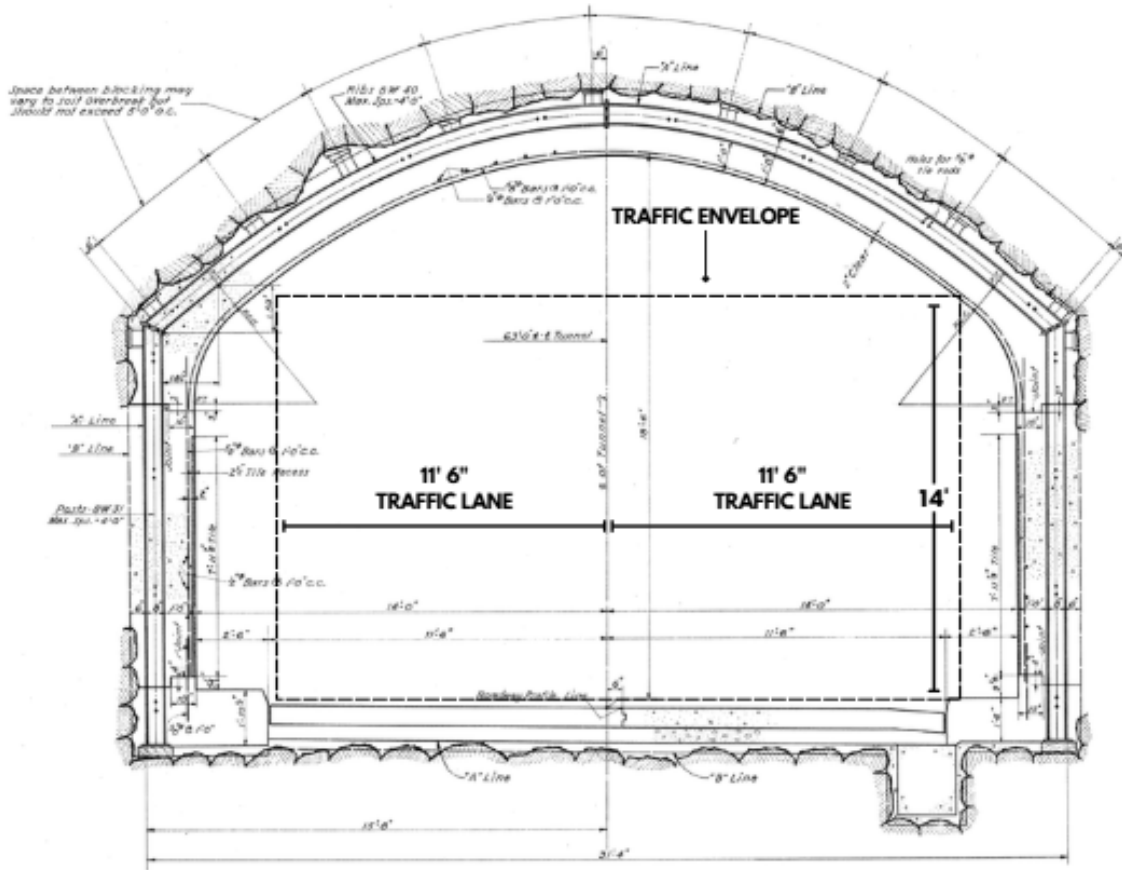


HYDROCARBON DETECTION SYSTEM

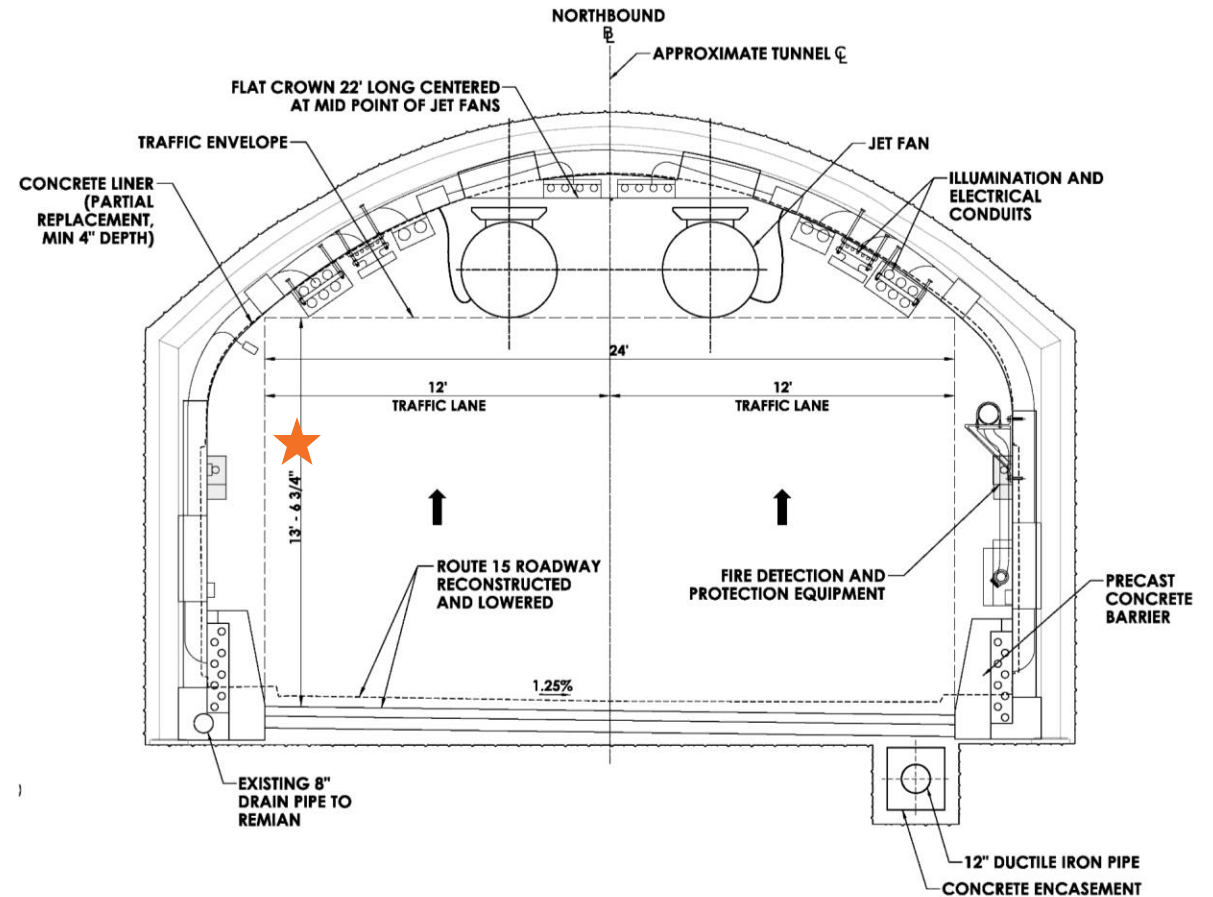


ELECTRICAL & COMMUNICATION LINES

Existing Cross Section & Proposed Improvements



EXISTING



PROPOSED

★ Other options are being evaluated to maximize the vertical clearance as much as possible

Hydrodynamic Separator

What is a hydrodynamic separator?

A proprietary device used with closed storm drainage systems for stormwater treatment

Purpose:

To allow water to continue along the drainage system while spilled liquids are captured

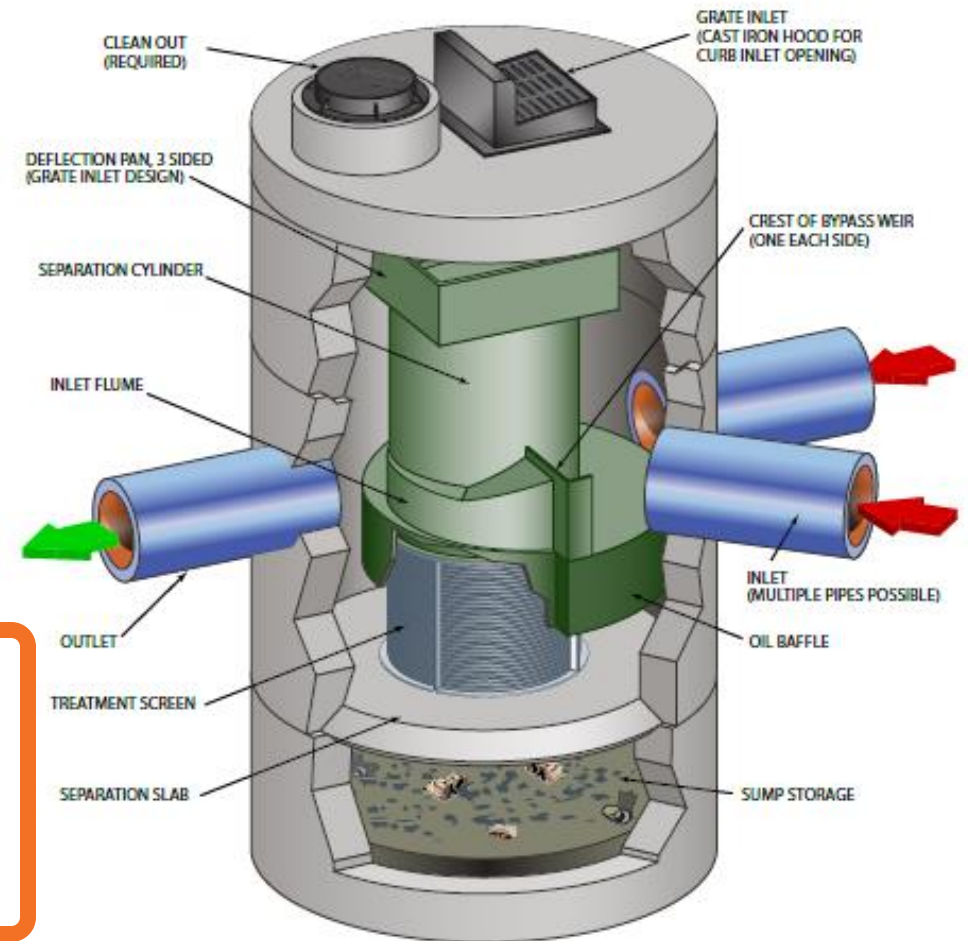
Function:



Relies on a vortex action to **remove coarse solids & large oil droplets from stormwater**



Sediments accumulate in a chamber for **periodic cleaning & maintenance**



Structural Improvements

- Replace liner surface concrete (min. 4" depth) in both tunnels
- Full depth reconstruction at jet fan attachment to ceiling & controls
- Repairs to central shaft concrete
- Rehabilitation of ventilation building with in-kind materials
 - Repairs at deteriorated concrete & steel elements
 - Repoint stone masonry
 - Remove graffiti

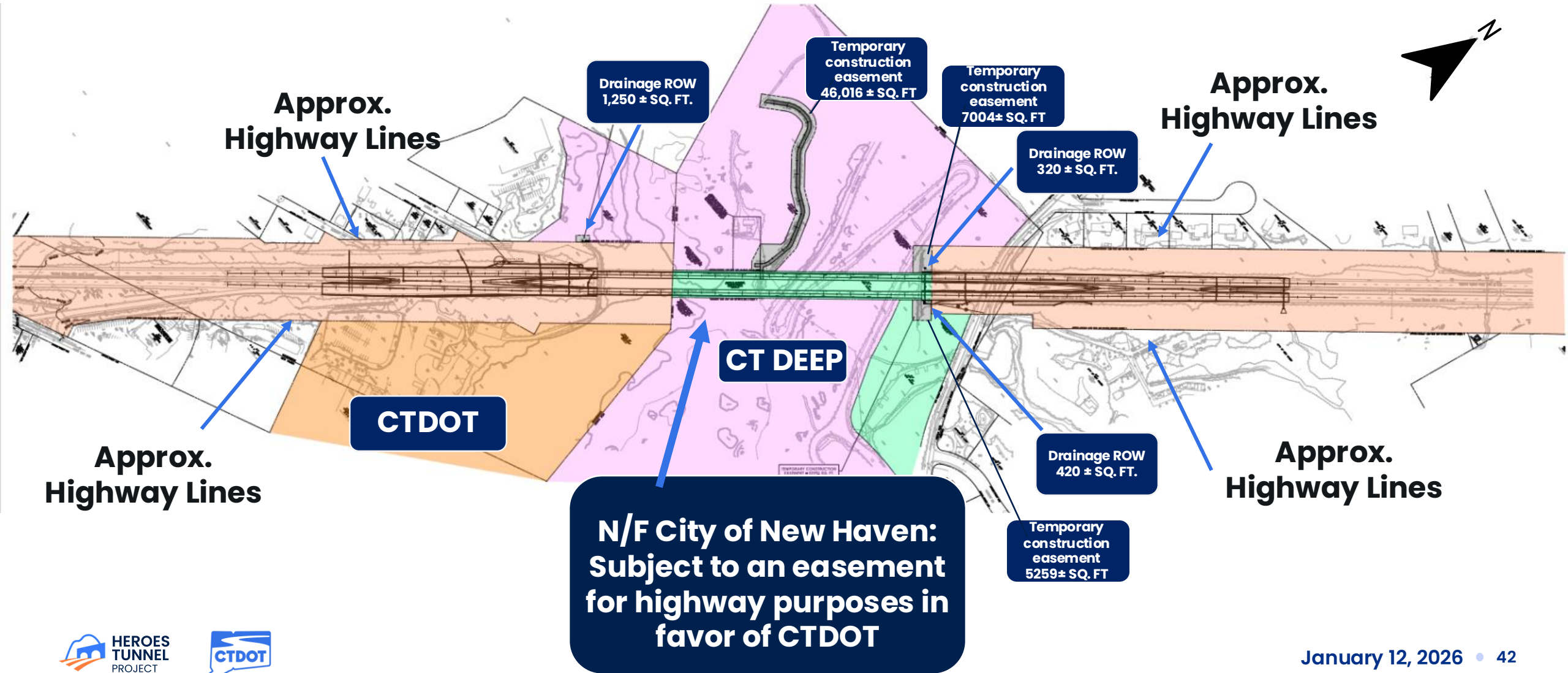


Tunnel deterioration



Ventilation building

Right-of-Way



Right-of-Way Relevant Law

State of Connecticut

- C.G.S. Sections 13a-73 & 13a-98e

Federal

- Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended



Right-of-Way Acquisition Process

Letter of Intent to Acquire

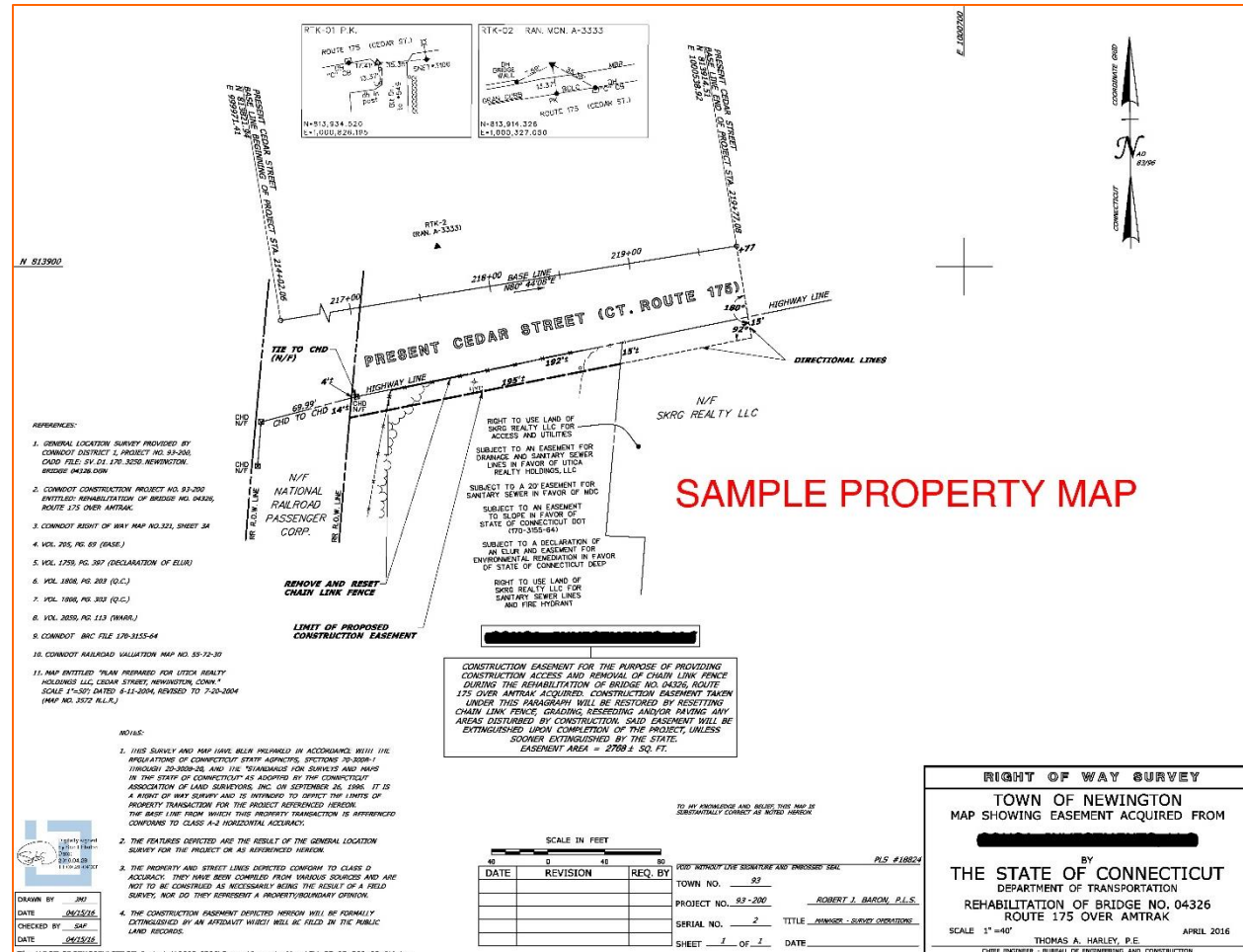
Valuation

Offer of Just Compensation

Negotiation

Acquisition

- Agreement
- Eminent Domain/Condemnation
- 6-month Appeal Period



Environmental Impacts

- ✓ **Section 4(f)** Coordination Required
- ✓ **Section 106** processing required



Heroes Tunnel determined **eligible for the National Register of Historic Places**



Portions of the **West Rock Ridge** is identified as **archeologically sensitive**



Next Steps: Supplemental Phase 1b Field Survey

- **Permits**

**Stormwater
General Permit**

**Flood Management
Certification**



Environmental Review Form

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

memorandum

subject: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FORM
Project No.: 0167-0108
Bridge Number(s): TJ00773
Town/City: New Haven, Woodbridge, Hamden
Date: September 15, 2025

Project Name: Rehabilitation of Heroes Tunnel

to: Mr. Bao Chuong
Transportation Principal Engineer
Bureau of Engineering and Construction

from: Christine A. Xenelis
Transportation Assistant Planning Director
Bureau of Policy and Planning

Kevin Carifa

Approved by Kevin Carifa
on 09/15/2025 at 10:05:44 AM
Bureau of Policy and Planning
Department of Transportation - State of Connecticut
www.ct.gov/transportation

Please note, this is not a Permit Need Determination Form (PNDF). Please submit a PNDP to the Natural Resources Planning Unit of the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) if you have not previously done so, unless the project qualifies for an expedited PNDP. OEP has reviewed the subject activity, notes the following environmental concerns and makes certain recommendations:

1. Socio-Economic

- Investigate displacement of families, businesses.
- Investigate potential disproportionately high or adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations.
- No apparent conflict with or impact to socio-economic resources.
- Project area is in a census tract containing certain ethnic populations with over 5% Limited English Proficiency.

Other: This project takes place in a census tract that is home to a Spanish speaking population with Limited English Proficiency. Please note for any required public outreach.

2. Parks, Recreation Areas, Wildlife Refuges, and Scenic Roads

- Investigate whether publicly owned parks, recreation areas and/or wildlife and waterfowl refuges are to be affected.
 - Investigate Possible Section 4(f) Processing.
 - Investigate Possible Section 6(f) Processing.
- This road has been/is in the process of being designated as a Scenic road under P.A. 87-280. Contact the Scenic Roads Committee Chairperson, David Elder, David.Elder@ct.gov, for further information.
- No apparent conflict/impact on publicly owned parks, recreation areas, refuges, or scenic roads.

Other: West Rock Ridge State Park is in the project area and has proposed impacts. Section 4(f) processing will be required. Please contact Cameron Lettieri at cameron.letteri@ct.gov for required coordination.

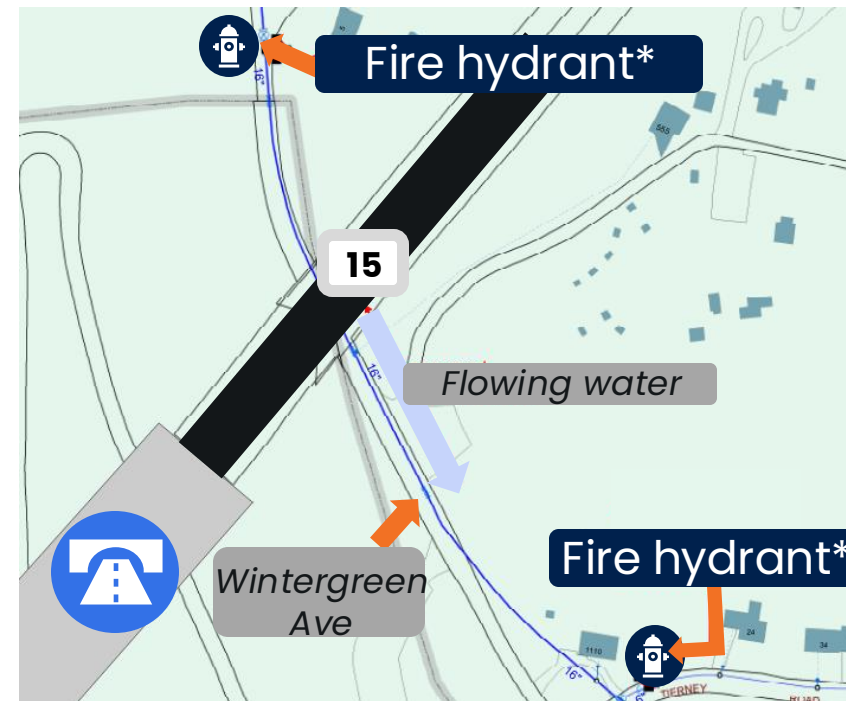
Utility Coordination - Utility Installations



Electrical: United Illuminating – Single Electrical Utility Service to the new Tunnel Ancillary Building with backup diesel emergency generator

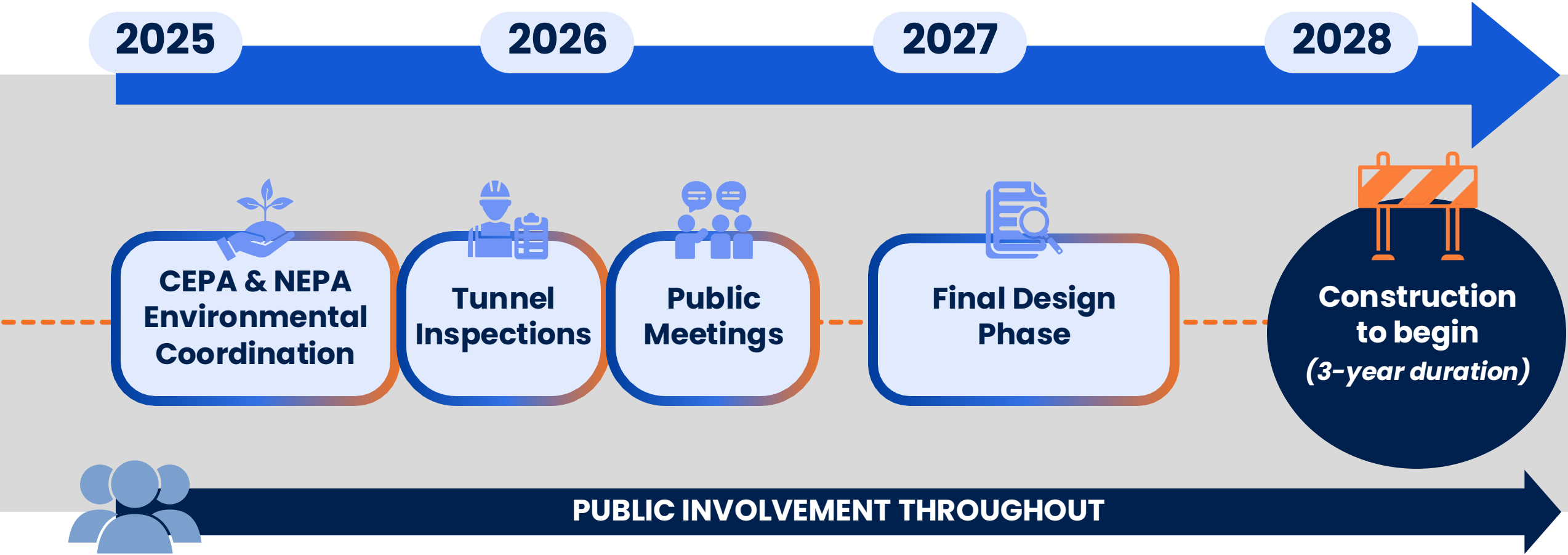


Water: Regional Water Authority (RWA) – Addition of new hydrants at the Incident Command Posts from existing water line






Project Schedule & Cost

Heroes Tunnel Project Schedule



Cost Analysis – Preliminary Construction Cost Estimate

Activity	Cost	Notes
 Total estimate of construction cost	\$131,400,000	Construction items (Preliminary design estimate still being refined) <small>*2025 costs</small>
 Contingency (18%) Inflation (to midpoint of construction) Design Costs & Incidentals	\$43,400,000	As per cost estimating guidelines
 Total construction cost	\$174,900,000	80% Federal, 20% State

Next Steps

Next Steps



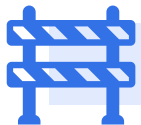
Public Comment Period (*January 12 – January 28, 2026*)



Preliminary Design Completion (*February 11, 2026*)



Final Design Completion (*Spring 2026 – Fall 2027*)



Anticipated Construction (*Spring 2028*)

We want your feedback!

 portal.ct.gov/heroestunnel

 heroestunnel@ct.gov

 **CTDOT Headquarters**
Attention: Tracey Brais, Major Structures Unit
2800 Berlin Tpke, Newington, CT 06111

 **(860) 594-2020**

 **On Zoom: Q&A**
**Zoom Q&A is only available during live Q&A session*

**Submit your comments
through January 28, 2026!**



**Scan to learn
more!**

Stay Engaged!

Follow along on social media



@heroestunnel



@heroestunnel



@heroestunnelproject

Sign up for email updates



portal.ct.gov/heroestunnel

Question and Answer Session

Let's have a productive, friendly, & efficient meeting.



**Respectful
language &
professional
meeting
behavior**



**Similar
questions may
be grouped**



**Recording
available
online**

Question & Answer Session



By Email: heroestunnel@ct.gov



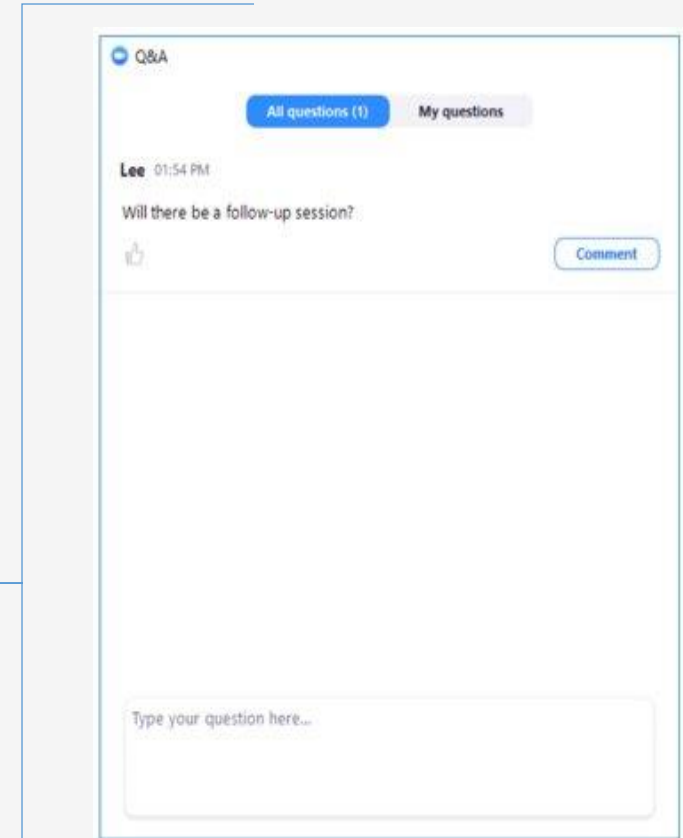
By Phone: (860) 594-2020



On Zoom: Q&A



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portal.ct.gov/heroestunnel



Moderator will answer questions
in Zoom Q&A function

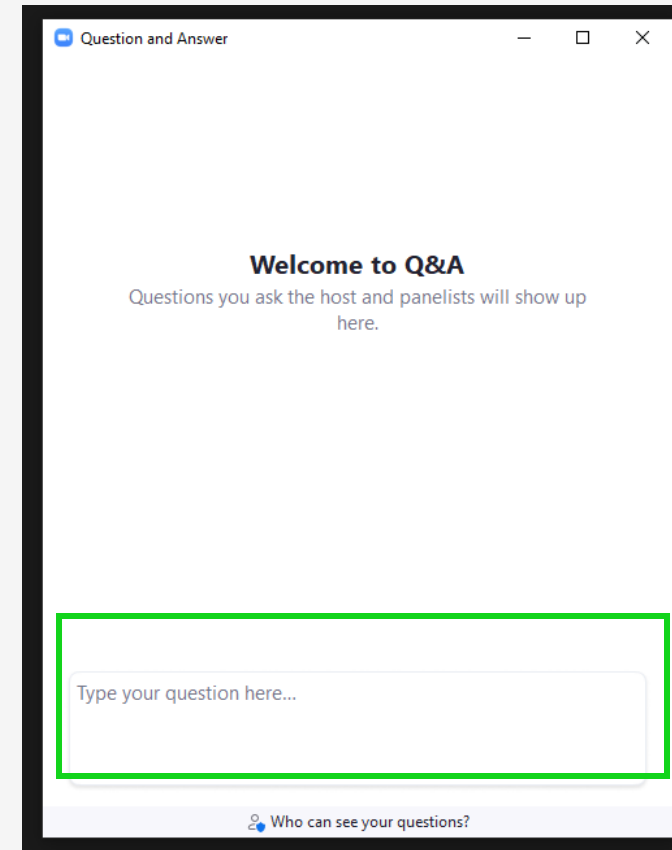
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Thank You!