

Connecticut Department of Transportation

**State Project No. 0063-0726
Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 01469B (Dutch Point Viaduct)
I-91 Southbound over the Connecticut Southern Railroad (CSRR),
SR 598 Westbound, and TR 803
City of Hartford**

**Tuesday, July 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via MS Teams Live Event and YouTube Live**

Minutes of Public Informational Meeting

Project Team:

Timothy Fields – CTDOT Major Bridges Principal Engineer
Michelle Lynch – CTDOT Major Bridge Supervising Engineer
Mei Wong – CTDOT Major Bridge Project Engineer
Thomas Ryan – Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C. Project Manager
John Miller II – Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C. Project Engineer

Attendees:

6 via Microsoft TEAMS
4 via YouTube

Presentation: A virtual presentation concerning the proposed rehabilitation of Bridge 01469B (Dutch Point Viaduct), was held through TEAMS and streamed on YouTube. The formal presentation began at 7:00 p.m. To provide the public and the local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions during the presentation, the project team monitored and responded to the chat on MS Teams Live Event, DOT email, and the phone lines.

Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C. (CJM) gave a PowerPoint presentation of the bridge location at the junction of I-91 and Whitehead Highway, the project limits, the steel frame superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck, abutments and piers, and the 33 spans of this 1800' long viaduct bridge that supports an average daily traffic (ADT) of 48,200 vehicles per day on I-91 Southbound in the capital area of the City of Hartford. The following items were included in the presentation:

- The poor deck condition and the fair substructure and superstructure ratings were explained with photos, ground-penetrating radar survey data, and Bridge Safety Inspection Report ratings.
- The proposed deck replacement with precast panels, proposed repairs and strengthening of the steel pier bents using micro-piles, and the steel superstructure repairs and strengthening were explained with plans and cross-sections of the bridge's framing and substructure.
- The presentation included a video to show the proposed construction utilizing a movable barrier system that provides for multiple off-peak lane closures while maintaining the existing traffic.
- The rehabilitation of the bridge utilizing 2 stages of construction with all traffic lanes maintained during the daytime hours on weekdays and weekends.
- The preferred nightly closure of the State Street on-ramp including the existing hourly traffic counts and the proposed detour on Columbus Boulevard to Whitehead Highway.
- Construction is expected to start in the Spring of 2023 based on the availability of funding and the estimated \$59 million construction cost is anticipated to be undertaken with 100 percent State funds.

Public Comments and Questions: Immediately following the presentation there was a live question and answer session.

- How and when would the public be notified on the starting of construction?

Verbal Response: CTDOT District Construction will issue public notice of the start of construction. The CTDOT website for this project will also publish advisory notices of project progress and anticipated activities

- You mentioned night work during the presentation, what is the time-period of the night work?

Verbal Response: Night work on the deck and roadway is anticipated to be performed from 7 PM until 6 AM weekdays and 8 AM weekends. Work below the bridge will not have time restrictions

- How will the State coordinate the project with the City of Hartford?

Verbal Response: The Department and the City of Hartford have commenced coordination meetings; these will continue throughout the project. Portions of the work are located within the City's Right of Way access to the Greater Hartford Flood-Control facilities located along the banks of the Connecticut River and below the existing viaduct. The City will have access to these facilities at all times. The City of Hartford will continue to be advised of progress and they will be provided with plans and special provisions for review and comment as the project advances through the design phase. Once the project has been advertised and awarded to a contractor, the City will be invited to attend regular construction progress meetings. The City will receive emails of all relevant Reports of Meetings and appropriate transactions and determinations.

- How noisy will this work be and how will you try to control the noise?

Verbal Response: Noise will be limited to 90 dBA, which is OSHA's permissible exposure limit (PEL) for all workers for an 8-hour day.

- Will there be coordination with emergency services response during the work and will access be provided from I-91 to the local hospital?

Verbal Response: Yes, there will absolutely be coordination in advance of the actual construction and throughout the project. The I-91 SB Capitol Area Exit 29A will be maintained during the construction as a route to Hartford Hospital. There are additional alternative routes from I-91 SB that will also be available during this construction to serve local hospitals, these alternatives routes include Exit 31 to State St. and Exit 32A to Trumbull St.

- When will the construction start?

Verbal Response: Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

- Why will this construction project take two years to finish and why can't it go any faster?

Verbal Response: The work is limited by traffic maintenance and will be less effective at night. The set-up time for traffic barriers, signing, and nightly mobilization of equipment limit production. Additionally, the magnitude of the project's nearly ½ mile of bridge deck replacement has led to the estimated time. Construction may be completed faster, and we will consider incentives in the Contract for early completion.

Adjournment: The project was generally well-received by those who attended the meeting. The live event virtual presentation was closed at approximately 7:45 p.m. Attendees were reminded to fill out the survey and any additional comments can be submitted until August 3, 2021.