Connecticut Department of Transportation

State Project No. 0063-0728
Aesthetic Lighting for Bridge No. 00980A
I-84 over the Connecticut River
Hartford & East Hartford

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Zoom Webinar

Minutes of Public Informational Meeting

Presenters/Speakers:
Tracey Brais, P.E. (CTDOT)
Chad Perkoski, P.E. (CHA)

CTDOT Attendees:
Bao Chuong, P.E.
Luis Alfonzo, P.E.

East Hartford Town Representative:
Doug Wilson, P.E. (Town Engineer)

Design Consultant Attendees:
Chad Perkoski, P.E. (CHA)
Churyanathan Loganathan (CHA)
Thomas Bergeron (TLP)

Public Attendees:
(9) via Zoom

Prior to the presentation, Doug Wilson the Town Engineer from East Hartford mentioned that the Town had reviewed the plans and were generally in agreement.

Presentation:
A virtual presentation was held through a Zoom Webinar for the project and delivered by Ms. Tracey Brais from CTDOT and Mr. Chad Perkoski from Clough, Harbour & Associates, LLP.

The presentation began at approximately 7:00 pm. Following an introduction of the project and the project design team, the following items were presented:

- The Bulkeley Bridge location, orientation with respect to City of Hartford and town of East Hartford.

- The Bulkeley Bridge was constructed in 1906 as a stone masonry arch structure with an initial cost of $3 Million which was at the time the most expensive bridge constructed at the time. The bridge was widened in 1964 on the north side as a reinforced concrete arch. Bulkeley Bridge is one of the oldest structures on the Interstate system and the largest stone masonry arch bridge in the State of Connecticut.

- The purpose of this project is to provide a long-term and cost-effective aesthetic lighting system to memorialize the significance of the Bulkeley Bridge. The project needs are to provide a context sensible lighting scheme, low initial construction cost, weatherproof lighting system, ease of access for future maintenance.

- A summary of the existing lighting conditions at the roadway, sidewalk and aesthetic lighting fixtures at the bridge.

- Following this, the proposed lighting scheme graphic was presented and explained.

- Maintenance, constructability considerations and impacts were discussed.

- Power source location for the proposed aesthetic lighting to be installed in the southeast corner.

- Temporary I-84 lane and shoulder closures during off-peak hours are proposed to facilitate the light fixture and conduit installation. The I-91 SB Exit 30 and I-84 WB Exit 51 ramps will need to be closed for a couple of overnight periods so that the lights can be installed at the west end of the bridge.

- The proposed detour for I-91 SB Exit 30 will use City of Hartford streets and is approximately 1 mile. The proposed detour for I-84 WB Exit 51 with use City of Hartford streets and is approximately 1.4 miles long.

- Coordination with DEEP Fisheries was mentioned and that the proposed lighting intensity and color was selected to minimize the impacts to the fish. This work falls under the DEEP General Coastal Maintenance permit. No other permits are required as all construction access will be from the roadway.

- It is anticipated that all work will occur within the existing highway right-of-way.

- Construction is estimated to begin in Fall 2024 and be complete by Spring 2025.

- Total estimated construction cost is $1.2 Million funded 100% by the state.

Public Comments and Questions:

Question 1:

Has lighting been considered along the width of the arches under the bridge?

Answer: At this time, lighting the under arches is not proposed on this project due to potential environment impacts and future maintenance concerns including costs and access. The project team will consider further as the design progresses.

Question 2:

Would you consider installing lights that could change colors for special occasions?

Answer: The multi-color lighting system on the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge requires a lot of maintenance and there's a greater need for lane closures which lead to traffic impacts and potential safety concerns for both traveling public and DOT maintenance crews. The option for the Bulkeley Bridge was selected to minimize future maintenance needs, and associated lane and shoulder closures on I-84.

Question 3:

While the standard lighting will be set at 2700k, will the system have multicolor functionality for holidays and/or special events? For example, if the bridge could be lit up green for St. Patrick's day or blue if UConn huskies win a major game.

Answer: Noted the response to the second question.

Question 4:

Have you considered the impact on migratory birds? Also how did you choose the lighting level, especially with LEDs, which are so bright. The color spectrum seems right if you consider dark skies recommendations. Is there a way to minimize environmental impacts?

Answer: There are no known concerns associated with migratory birds at this site at this time. We will continue to coordinate with the Regulatory Agencies to minimize potential impacts due to this project. The LED light will be focus-controlled projecting down on to the pier nose will which significantly reduce the amount of light cascading on to the river. Since the lights are projected down, there are no dark skies concerns. Warm light 2700k is chosen to reduce the impact to migratory fishes in the river.

Adjournment: The project was generally well received by those attending the meeting. The live virtual presentation was closed at 7:34 pm.

Drafted by: Loganathan, Churyanathan Digitally signed by Loganathan, Churyanathan Date: 2024.02.15 14:23:50-05'00' Date: 02/15/2024

Churyanathan Loganathan, Design Engineer
Clough, Harbour & Associates, LLP

Reviewed by: Perkoski, Chad Digitally signed by Perkoski, Chad Date: 2024.02.16 07:55:01-05'00' Date: 2/16/2024

Chad Perkoski, P.E., Lead Engineer
Clough, Harbour & Associates, LLP

Approved by: Tracey Brais Digitally signed by Tracey Brais Date: 2024.02.16 07:58:52-05'00' Date: 2/16/2024

Tracey Brais, P.E., Supervising Engineer
Connecticut Department of Transportation

Churyanathan Loganathan/lc/cep
cc: Attendees