



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Connecticut Division

May 2, 2016

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In Reply Refer To:
HEO-CT

Mr. Timothy M. Wilson, P.E.
Manager of Highway Design
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
PO Box 317546
Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546

Subject: Interstate Conceptual Access Modification Report Approval
State Project No. 0063-0703, City of Hartford/Town of East Hartford

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Connecticut Division Office and the FHWA Headquarters Office in Washington, DC have completed the review of CTDOT's November 9, 2015 request for Interstate Conceptual Access Modification approval for the relocation of the I-91 northbound interchange 29 to Route 5/15 northbound in Hartford, Connecticut to I-84 eastbound in East Hartford, Connecticut. This project also involves the widening of I-91 northbound and Route 5/15 northbound.

To support the Department's request and in response to FHWA's review comments, CTDOT provided us the following documentation for review:

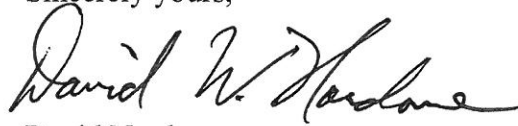
1. Conceptual Access Modification Report, including Appendices and Plan, dated November 4, 2015
2. Justification for Major Fork Request for Interstate Access Modification Concept Approval, dated January 15, 2016
3. Construction Cost Estimate Breakdown for Alternates 4, 6C, 6D and 8A, dated January 25, 2016
4. CTDOT Response to FHWA Comments on Conceptual Access Modification Report, dated March 30, 2016
5. CTDOT Response to FHWA Signing and Pavement Marking Plan Comments, dated April 12, 2016

FHWA has determined that this proposed interchange modification will improve the safety and operations of northbound I-91 in Hartford where it provides access to East Hartford and I-84 to the east. Based on FHWA's review, the CTDOT's proposed modification of the I-91 northbound interchange 29 to Route 5/15 northbound is acceptable based on engineering and operational

considerations. We understand that CTDOT is currently in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on this project. Once a decision has been made on the EA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process has been completed, FHWA may give final approval of this access modification provided that the scope and design of this project remains consistent with the November 4, 2015 Interstate Conceptual Access Modification Report and the NEPA decision. This approval is subject to reevaluation if significant changes occur in the final design or if the construction is delayed (as specified in 23 CFR 771.129). It should be noted that approval of an access modification request does not constitute approval of the design exceptions associated with this project.

If you should have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 860-494-7559 or at David.W.Nardone@dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Nardone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

David Nardone
Engineering Team Leader

Cc: Susan Libatique, CT DOT
Sebastian Cannamela, CT DOT