

Connecticut Department of Transportation

**State Project No. 0095-259
Replacement of Bridge No. 05122
Van Car Road over E. Aspetuck River
Town of New Milford**

**December 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom and YouTube Livestream**

Report of Public Informational Meeting

In Attendance:

There were approximately 10 people in attendance which included the project team. The meeting participants included representatives of the Town of New Milford (Town), the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), and Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C. (CJM). No private citizens from the Town were in attendance. The meeting was well advertised, notices were mailed to abutting property owners, a public notice was published in the local newspaper the New Milford Spectrum, a sign with meeting information was posted at the bridge, and the public notice was posted on the Town website.

Presentation:

The Virtual Public Information Meeting, using Zoom and YouTube Livestream was started at 6:58 p.m. with an introductory slide which provided project contact and website information for attendees to view while they waited for the presentation to begin. At 7:00 p.m., the presentation began with DOT's Project Manager, Marc P. Byrnes, introducing the project and giving a summary of the Design Managed by State (DMS) program and the goals for the night's meeting. Mr. Byrnes then explained the role of CJM as Consultant Liaison Engineer and introduced Jack Healy, Public Works Director/Town Engineer from the Town of New Milford. Mr. Healy explained the Town's involvement with the DMS program and explained how the Town is working in partnership with DOT to fund projects and repair bridges throughout the Town. Mr. Healy then described reasons for the project and the cooperative effort between the Town and DOT. Mr. Byrnes then introduced the various representatives from CTDOT and CJM and then described some of the bridge technical terms that would be used in the presentation. Mr. Byrnes then turned the presentation over to Mr. Daniel T. Carnein from CJM to discuss the technical portion of the project.

Mr. Carnein explained the existing bridge conditions and the purpose of the project. Mr. Carnein introduced the proposed project plans and proposed detour necessary to replace Bridge No. 05122. Rights of way impacts, permitting requirements, construction schedule and project cost were also discussed during the technical portion of the presentation.

Key points of the technical portion of the presentation were:

- The structure carries Van Car Road over the East Aspetuck River, and is located 0.6 miles west of Route 202.
- The bridge is adjacent to the intersection with Paper Mill Road.
- The existing bridge has structural deficiencies in the existing deck (rated in poor condition) and superstructure (rated in serious condition).
- The Town recently performed some repairs on the bridge superstructure.
- The bridge is safe for use, but the project is still needed to address all deficiencies.

- The existing bridge has potential to scour. Based on preliminary analysis, soil underneath the bridge could potentially erode during an extreme storm event resulting in a possible bridge failure.
- The existing bridge will be replaced with a new prestressed concrete box beam superstructure supported by reinforced concrete abutments founded on piles.
- Open bridge rail will be installed across the structure and terminate into reinforced concrete endwalls.
- The proposed structure will have an increased span length of 55-feet.
- Portions of the driveway located to the southeast of the bridge will have to be reconstructed.
- New drainage structures will be installed on Van Car Road.
- The bridge curb-to-curb width will be approximately 22 feet and consist of two, 11-foot travel lanes (one in each direction).
- The proposed detour is approximately 7.1 miles, and utilizes State and local Roads.
- Van Car Road will be closed for 6 to 8 months during construction.
- Paper Mill Road will be closed for approximately 3 months during the summer to perform construction activities in the Van Car Road/Paper Mill Road intersection.
- The project will involve rights of way activities including temporary construction easements and slope easements.
- Property impacts will be finalized and individual property owners will be contacted as design progresses.
- All necessary environmental permits will be obtained for the project.
- Construction is anticipated to start in the Spring of 2025 and will take approximately 6 to 8 months to complete.
- The project is funded with 80% Federal funds and 20% State funds. The estimated construction cost is currently \$2,955,000, with a State share of \$591,000, and a Town share of zero dollars.

The presentation was then turned over to Mr. Zachary Guarino who explained the CTDOT Division of Rights of Way role in the project and the rights of way process.

Mr. Byrnes then concluded the presentation by reviewing the live Q&A procedures.

No comments or questions were received during the presentation's Q&A session.

Adjournment:

The email address, telephone number and project webpage address were provided for any additional questions or comments regarding the project following the meeting. Attendees were reminded to fill out the survey and that any additional comments can be submitted until December 28, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Post Meeting:

The official comment period ended on December 28, 2022. No comments were received by the Town, CTDOT or CJM.