

Connecticut Department of Transportation

**State Project No. 0102-367
Federal-Aid Project No. N/A
Rehabilitation of Bridge Nos. 07023 and 08226R
City of Norwalk**

**December 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom and YouTube Live**

Minutes of Public Informational Meeting

Present:

Alvaro Garcia Jr.	CTDOT	alvaro.garcia@ct.gov
Lesgie Ruiz	CTDOT	lesgie.ruiz@ct.gov
Brian Nelson	H.W. Lochner	bnelson@hwlochner.com
Jennifer Usher	BL Companies	jusher@blcompanies.com
Thomas Beckman	BL Companies	tbeckman@blcompanies.com
Michael Woods	BL Companies	mwoods@blcompanies.com

6 Public Zoom Attendees

Presentation: A Public Information Meeting was held for this project on December 12, 2022. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom and YouTube Live. The formal presentation began at 6:00 p.m. Transportation Project Engineer Lesgie Ruiz began the presentation by introducing the representatives of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), BL Companies (BLC), the Consultant Liaison Engineer and, H.W. Lochner, Hydraulic Consultant Designer. Thomas Beckman, BLC Senior Engineer, and Michael Woods, BLC Project Manager, gave a twenty-five-minute PowerPoint presentation describing State Project No. 0102-0367, the Rehabilitation of Bridge Nos. 07023 and 08226R, West Avenue, Interstate 95 Interchange 15 On-Ramp and Metro-North Railroad over Drainage in the City of Norwalk.

The presentation included the following items:

- Bridge No. 07023 consists of a 785-foot long 8'-7" x 5'-11" corrugated structural pipe arch which was built in 1955. The structure is in critical condition due to the severe deterioration of the pipe invert.
- The project purpose and need are to address the deterioration to the culvert and need to improve hydraulic capacity to address historical flooding.
- The proposed rehabilitation by installing a metal pipe liner within the existing pipe and installing a 6-foot reinforced concrete pipe parallel to existing to split drainage flow. Portions of West Avenue and the I-95 Northbound Interchange 15 On-Ramp will be reconstructed.
- The maintenance and protection of traffic along West Ave will be accomplished utilizing short term lane closures during night hours. This staged construction is anticipated to take approximately 2 weeks.
- Installation of the new 6-foot pipe beneath the I-95 Northbound Interchange 15 On-Ramp will require a detour, which is expected to direct traffic north along West Avenue to Route 7 North, to exit number 1. Traffic will turn left on Belden Avenue (U.S. Route 1) and left again onto Van Buren Avenue (U.S. Route 1) to merge onto Route 7 South and

I-95 North. The City of Norwalk has expressed concerns with this detour and there will be additional coordination between the City and CTDOT to discuss.

- Existing utilities along West Avenue are to be maintained and protected in place. The project will require the relocation of a CTDOT owned illumination transformer and cabinet.
- The project will require a CTDOT Coastal Consistency Review permit.
- Rights-of-Way impacts are not anticipated.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2023. The current Opinion of Probable Construction Cost is approximately \$5,000,000. State Project 0102-0367 is expected to be 100% State Funded.
- Bridge No. 08226R consists of a 310 foot long 8'-7" x 5'-11" corrugated structural pipe arch which was built in 1955. The structure is in severe condition due to the deterioration of the pipe invert. The replacement of this structure will be conducted under a separate project with design anticipated to begin in 2023.

Public Comments and Questions: Following the formal presentation, a live Question and Answer session was opened to the attendees. The questions and comments below were provided via voicemail, email, and MS Teams Live Event chat:

Chat question: Where will the Contractor place his equipment while the project is in construction?

A representative of BL Companies stated that the contractor will likely store equipment and materials in the space between the on-ramp and I-95 northbound.

Chat question: Is the bridge safe to drive on?

A representative of BL Companies stated that part of the need for the project is to address the poor condition of the pipe. However, it is currently safe to drive over. The representative further stated that the Department is required to inspect bridges every two years, per federal requirements, and that this bridge is on a 6-month inspection cycle to ensure the deterioration is not progressing to a point where the bridge is unsafe to drive on. The Department would close the bridge if it was deemed an unsafe condition.

Chat question: Will any City or resident funding be required for the project?

A representative of BL Companies stated that currently the project is expected to be 100 percent State-funded. It was further noted that federal funding may also be used, but no City funding would be required.

Chat question: How often are these pipes get inspected?

A representative of BL Companies stated that this project is on a 6-month cycle, but all bridge structures owned by the State of Connecticut are inspected once every two years, and as the conditions worsens the inspections become more frequent.

Chat question: Will the SoNo Mall close during this project? Or can it stay open?

A representative of BL Companies stated that the SoNo Mall will not need to close and the Department is working closely with them as they are considered one of the major stakeholders in the project. It is expected that some of the work associated with Bridge No. 08226R will occur on the SoNo property and that the design is anticipated to begin in 2023. Once design has commenced, the Department will schedule a second public information meeting to present that project in detail. The Department understands that the busiest season is the rail end of the year but construction is anticipated to be in the summer, so access to the SoNo Mall should not be interrupted by construction.

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 that any additional comments will be received until December 26, 2022.

The presentation was well received, and the meeting was adjourned around 6:40 p.m.