



PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEETING #4

Meeting Summary

Date: September 17, 2018

Norwalk Inn and Conference Center

Time: 6:30pm

Attendance

PAC Members	
David Waters	Building and Land Technology
Chris Wigren	Connecticut Historical Trust
Timothy Densky	Empire State Realty Trust, Inc
Wes Haynes	Merritt Parkway Conservancy
Jo-Anne Horvath	None
Alan Kibbe	None
Nancy Rosett	Norwalk Bike Walk Commission
Tod Bryant	Norwalk Preservation Trust
Jim Carter	Norwalk Valley River Trail
Peter Viteretto	Silvermine Community Association
Ray Rauth	Sound Cyclists
Connecticut Department of Transportation and FHWA Staff	
Yolanda Antoniak	CTDOT
Tom Doyle	CTDOT
Andy Fesenmeyer	CTDOT
Project Consultant Team	
Meghan Bard	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
Ken Livingston	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
Paul Stanton	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
Marguerite Carnell	Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.
John Eberle	Stantec
Gary Sorge	Stantec
Emily Valentino	Stantec
General Public	
John Block	



Route 7-15 Norwalk

1. Welcome

Andy Fesenmeyer, of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), welcomed everyone to the fourth Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting for the Route 7/15 Norwalk Project. He introduced the team members in attendance and noted that this was the first meeting since last year.

Meeting Overview

Andy Fesenmeyer reviewed the meeting's agenda items, which were covered using PowerPoint presentation slides:

1. Project Team Introductions
2. Project Review and Update
 - Review of PAC Meeting #3
 - Schedule
 - Scoping Summary
 - Purpose & Need
3. Needs and Deficiency Report
4. Alternates Assessment Screening
5. Next Steps/Questions

2. Review of PAC Meeting #2

Andy F. presented a brief overview of the topics that were covered at the third PAC meeting on September 19, 2017.

3. Schedule

This PAC meeting was the first PAC meeting in 2018, as the Route 7/15 project was part of a list of projects identified by Governor Malloy in January 2018 for review. The project team is now moving forward with completing the existing condition analysis of the environmental documentation and looking to develop the alternatives analysis screening process over the 2018-19 winter. The environmental documentation would be completed in 2019 with the identification of a preferred alternative. Preliminary design would begin in 2020, the environmental permitting phase and final design would follow concluding in 2022 and construction begun in 2023.

4. Scoping Summary

Andy F. provided a brief update on the scoping period that was completed in November of 2017. The project team is developing a scoping summary report which includes comments received via the scoping meeting, other comments submitted from the public and formal comments from agencies. Andy F provided an overview of the key concerns received during the scoping process.

5. Purpose and Needs

Andy F. provided a brief overview of the Purpose & Need subcommittee meeting held just prior to the PAC meeting. He stated that the Purpose and Need subcommittee had requested that the reference to landscape design guidelines of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy be included directly with the Purpose and Need document and not simply included as a footnote within the document. They also asked that 'Landscape' be specifically referenced for integrating roadways into the neighborhood environment. Andy F. noted the project team would review this suggestion and look to address within the document.

6. Needs and Deficiency Report



Route 7-15 Norwalk

John E. provided a brief overview of the Needs and Deficiencies report, noting it had been distributed to the PAC for any questions and clarifications. He directed PAC to review past presentations (PAC #2) where Needs and Deficiencies were presented. He then briefly gave an overview of the basic needs and deficiencies including substandard geometric elements, insufficient capacity/congestion, a history of crashes, incomplete connections and a lack of bike/ped facilities on Main Avenue.

7. Alternatives Assessment Screening

John E. presented an overview of the upcoming work effort for the project team and the PAC to develop an alternatives assessment screening process. John E. reviewed the variety of screening options that had been presented at the second PAC meeting. John E. stated the project would look to use a tiered approach to review alternatives in the following process:

- Consistency with Purpose and Need
- Consistency with NEPA/CEPA topic areas
- Meets Goals & Objectives of the project
- Additional issues and concerns to be identified by PAC and others

The next PAC meeting will focus on the development of the screening matrix.

8. Next Steps

Andy F. presented the projects next steps including the distribution of the scoping summary report, refining criteria for the next work session and updating traffic counts. The next PAC Meeting will take place in late 2018 (November).

The following discussion ensued:

Comments/Questions:

Q: There is not a discussion of landscape issues in the Needs & Deficiency Report. Is it possible to include some discussion of Route 15 as a parkway in the report?

A: We will review the report and see if there is an opportunity to include a discussion of the road as a parkway from a landscape perspective.

Q: The Needs & Deficiency Report focuses north/south on Main Avenue for pedestrian and bicycle facilities but does not extend this review north to Grist Mill. There are no pedestrian amenities in the Grist Mill/Main Avenue/Route 7 area. Can this area be included in the analysis of bicycle and pedestrian amenities?

A: The project team will review and respond the next PAC meeting.

Q: Pedestrian signals at Grist Mill do not exist or are not working. Can you discuss?

A: The focus of this project is not the Grist Mill/Main Avenue intersection. We will let others at CTDOT know about this issue.