

Town of Southbury
State Project No. 9130-0013
Replacement of Bridge No. 130-013
Purchase Brook Road Bridge over Purchase Brook

Public Informational Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2024, 2:00 PM
Room 205, Southbury Town Hall, 501 Main Street South

Present

- Blake Leonard, Southbury DPW
- Matt Tarnowski, Southbury DPW
- Gary Giroux, P.E., Cardinal Engineering Associates
- Members of the public

Presentation

- Mr. Giroux began by reviewing the project background and current condition of the bridge. The structure is in critical condition, with spalling and scouring present as well as significant section loss and exposed rebar, particularly on the downstream side. These factors contribute to the bridge's sufficiency rating of 44.52%.
- In addition to the deterioration, the current bridge can accommodate an 85-year storm prior to overtopping and the existing metal beam rail is not crash-compliant. The new bridge will be designed to current standards, which include accommodating a 100-year flow plus one foot of freeboard as well as featuring R-B 350 metal beam rail.
- Wetland and watercourse impacts total approximately 1,445 square feet. There are no federal wetlands within the project area, and the project is outside FEMA's 100-year floodplain.
- Due to the closure of River Road, which would be the preferred detour, construction will be staged to accommodate one-way alternating vehicular traffic.
- The first phase of the project will consist of a temporary road and retaining structure on the upstream side to allow the contractor to install the first four precast concrete boxes on the downstream side. Then, the temporary road will be shifted to the downstream side to allow the remaining four boxes to be placed on the upstream side.
- Wingwalls will be cast-in-place once the boxes are installed, and their appearance will mimic native stone.
- The utility pole nearest the driveway of #825 Purchase Brook Road will be relocated to accommodate the swing of the crane.

Public Comments and Questions

- **Question:** How is a bridge's sufficiency rating determined?
 - **Answer:** A number of factors are taken into account, such as load capacity, structure suitability, geometry, and roadway width.

- **Question:** How much longer will the project take due to the staged construction?
 - **Answer:** The replacement was expected to take 2-2.5 months if Purchase Brook Road could be closed during construction. However, because of the need for staged construction due to River Road's closure, construction is now estimated to take 5 months.
- **Comment:** A member of the public noted that the town previously had to pay for disturbing wetlands on a bridge project.
 - **Answer:** This project will have less than 5,000 square feet of disturbance, so payment in lieu of wetlands establishment is not required.
- **Question:** How long will it take the contractor to place the precast concrete sections, and will the road will be closed during installation?
 - **Answer:** Four boxes can be placed in 4-6 hours, but the road will have to be closed for up to a full day due to the size of the crane. Residents affected by the closure will be notified and an ambulance and fire truck may be positioned within the closure area, with River Road potentially open to emergency vehicles while the crane is working.
- **Question:** Is there an evacuation planned for the area affected by the closure?
 - **Answer:** Not at this time. Coordination is ongoing with the fire and police departments.
- **Question:** What are the property impacts to #825 Purchase Brook Road?
 - **Answer:** The contractor will position the crane so that access is maintained to the driveway at all times. Both temporary and permanent easements will be required, and the contractor will restore the easement area to the same or better condition compared to before construction.
- **Question:** When is construction is expected to begin?
 - **Answer:** Construction will begin as soon as possible after the contract is awarded and signed. Fabrication of the box culvert sections is the limiting factor.
- **Question:** When will the trees will be removed? Are there any trees on the downstream side being removed?
 - **Answer:** The trees must be removed by mid-April. There are a few trees on the downstream side to be removed, but most are upstream.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.