



CT Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike, P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06111



CME Associates, Inc.
333 East River Drive, Suite 400,
East Hartford, CT 06108

Report of Meeting

Date of Meeting: July 13, 2017
Location of Meeting: East Haddam Town Office Annex, 12:30 PM
Subject of Meeting: Town Roads Meeting
Project No. 40-141
Bridge No. 01138 in East Haddam/Haddam "Swing Bridge"
Route 82 over Connecticut River

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rabih M. Barakat	ConnDOT – CE Bridge	Craig Mansfield	East Haddam Emerg. Mgmt Director
Andrew J. Cardinali	ConnDOT – CE Bridge	Robert Casner	East Haddam EDC Chairman
Melissa Ziobron	State Representative, 34 th District	Edward Blaschik	Goodspeed Theatre
Lizz Milardo	Haddam First Selectman	Rachel Tischler	Goodspeed Theatre
Liz Glidden	Haddam Town Planner	Steven Harlacker	Hardesty & Hanover
Emmett Lyman	East Haddam First Selectman	Benjamin Hawthorne	Hardesty & Hanover
James Ventres	East Haddam Land Use Admin	Anand Seshadri	CME Associates
Beth Lunt	East Haddam Public Works Director	Tracey Brais	CME Associates

TRANSACTIONS AND DETERMINATIONS

The purpose of this meeting was to present the scope of the project to town representatives and solicit comments. The following is a list of transactions and determinations:

1. CME opened the meeting with a brief introduction to the project which involves the rehabilitation of Bridge No. 01138. They summarized the Towns' request to add a sidewalk on the bridge and the determinations made following the sidewalk feasibility study. CME explained the recommended scope of work which includes the addition of a cantilevered sidewalk structure that is attached to the south side of the bridge. Goodspeed asked if there was a plan showing the layout of the approach sidewalks. ConnDOT CE Bridge (The Department) said that it was agreed at a previous meeting with town representatives that the towns were responsible for the design and construction of approach sidewalks. The Town of Haddam stated that they have applied for a grant for the sidewalk on the Haddam side of the bridge and anticipate receiving the grant.
2. The Department said that the ConnDOT commissioner has approved the design and construction of a sidewalk on the bridge. The Department noted that the total cost shown on the meeting agenda handout, \$55 million, includes the cost to construct the sidewalk. The Department said that the cost for the work needed to repair deficiencies on the bridge is \$40 million and the construction of a sidewalk adds \$15 million. The Department

said that the project is currently in the “over-programmed” category, meaning that the funds for the project are not available yet. State Representative Ziobron asked what percentage of the project is funded by the state and when the state’s portion needs to be in-place. The Department said that 80% of the project will be federally funded and the other 20% will be funded by the state. The Department said that the project schedule is based on the time needed to complete engineering and administrative tasks. The Department explained that the FDP and DCD dates that are reported are related to getting the federal obligated amount. The Department added that the project is organized to have the sidewalk plan set as a separate set in case the total funds are not obtained by the start of construction. If need be, the sidewalk plan set would be used to construct the sidewalk at a later date, when the money is available. The Department stated that FHWA will want to know that the towns have plans to build the approach sidewalks and that the towns should continue their efforts to fund, design and build the approach sidewalks.

Action Item: Towns of East Haddam and Haddam to continue to find funds for the construction of the approach sidewalk and to design the approach sidewalk. When ready, approach sidewalk design plans should be sent to the Department.

3. The Town of East Haddam asked what thickness of pavement would be added and if the structural, mechanical and electrical design would account for the extra weight. CME explained that the existing 1” thick pavement in Spans 1 and 2, which currently have steel grid decks that are half filled with concrete, would be replaced with a 1” thick polyester polymer concrete overlay. CME added that the new overlay would also be placed on the existing half-filled steel grid deck sections in the swing span (at the ends and over the machinery pit); however the open steel grid deck in the rest of the swing span would remain open.
4. CME said that construction access would be likely be from the ground in Span 1 and from barges in Spans 2 through 4. CME stated that environmental permits would be needed and that there would be on-going coordination with CTDEEP, the Coast Guard and NOAA. CME said that it was recommended that the osprey be temporarily relocated during construction. State Representative Ziobron requested that the osprey nest remain throughout construction and that the contractor work around the nest.

Action Item: CME to coordinate with OEP to review the feasibility of having construction proceed with the osprey nest in place and what Contractor restrictions would be needed.

5. CME stated that the proposed maintenance and protection of traffic on Route 82 during construction includes a one way alternating traffic pattern that is controlled by temporary traffic signals. CME said that the eastbound lane would need to be closed 24 hours a day for an extended period when the sidewalk support brackets are installed. CME said that a conservative estimate for the duration of the eastbound lane closure is 6 months. CME said that further evaluation would be done during design to reduce the eastbound lane closure duration.

Goodspeed said that the proposed traffic pattern would have significant impacts to the Goodspeed and other businesses on both sides of the bridge. Goodspeed suggested specifying in the project documents that a trafficperson be present during peak times to help with traffic flow. The Department said that they usually look to the Towns first for traffic control personnel and if not available, state troopers or flaggers are requested.

6. The Town of Haddam suggested extending the seasonal operation hours of the Chester-Hadlyme Ferry to help reduce the traffic volume on the Swing Bridge during construction. The Town of Haddam said that the early project schedule for the Arrigoni Bridge construction project was supposed to occur at approximately the same time as this project. The Department said that they would coordinate with the Arrigoni Bridge project to make sure that any proposed regional detours do not conflict.
7. The Department said that a calendar day chart (construction schedule) would be developed in final design. The Department said that most of the sidewalk work would likely need to be done during the regular construction season (April through November); however it would be evaluated further in final design. Goodspeed said that their performance season is typically from April through December and shows typically end by 10:30pm. They requested that nighttime operations begin after 10:30pm if possible.
8. CME said that swing span operations will be affected when replacing the mechanical and electrical systems. CME stated that the swing span will need to remain closed for a four week period while the new mechanical and electrical equipment are installed. CME stated that additional short-term operation outages can be anticipated when testing the new systems. CME said that the mechanical and electrical work, and associated continuous, four week operation outage are proposed to occur during the winter (January until April) to minimize the impact to marine traffic on the Connecticut River.
9. The Town of Haddam suggested using commercial ferry companies to provide additional service at the Chester-Hadlyme Ferry crossing. The Department said that they would evaluate other ferry options during the design phase.
10. The Town of East Haddam said that the traffic volumes shown on the ConnDOT website seem low. CME said that they had obtained traffic counts from the ConnDOT Planning unit that were taken in 2015. The Town of East Haddam said that traffic has increased significantly in the last two years and asked if new traffic counts would be taken in 2018 and used to determine the timing of the temporary signals. The Department said that they would likely get new traffic counts to use in the design of this project. The Town of East Haddam requested the latest traffic counts that the Department has on-file.

Action Item: CME to send the 2015 traffic counts for the project site to the Town of East Haddam.

11. The Town of East Haddam asked if the Department would create a website that would have updated construction and traffic information. The Department said that press releases are sent out and notices on their website are posted once construction has started. State Representative Ziobron asked that she be kept informed of the construction schedule so that she can send emails to her constituents. She said that the bridge operator has a Twitter account and tweets about closures on the bridge or problems with the swing span operations. The Towns said that they could post updates on their websites and possibly create a dedicated webpage with daily traffic and construction updates.
12. The Town of Haddam said that they are installing a new water main in the Tylerville section of Haddam from Chester along Route 154 and Route 82 and asked that it be considered in planning detour routes. CT Water is doing the water main replacement and it is anticipated that the project will begin in Spring 2018.
13. CME said that the current estimated construction cost is \$55 million and that construction is anticipated to start in Fall 2019 and end in Fall 2021.
14. CME said that the next step in the public outreach process is to hold a public information meeting. CME said that, if the towns were agreeable, one meeting would be held, to which residents of both towns would be invited. CME said that they would coordinate with town officials to schedule a meeting date for mid-September and to determine the meeting location.
15. The Department and CME said that they would send plans at each milestone submission to town representatives.
16. The Town of Haddam noted that RiverCOG is working on a project to construct a roundabout at Route 9 Exit 7 and the intersection of Route 82 and Route 154. The Department said they would consider the schedule and prioritize the projects.

The following is a list of action items from this meeting:

Action Item No.	Required Action	Assign To	Status
2017-07:01	Continue to find funds for the construction of the approach sidewalk and to design the approach sidewalk. When ready, approach sidewalk design plans should be sent to the Department.	Towns of East Haddam and Haddam	Initiated 07/13/17
2017-07:02	Coordinate with OEP to review the feasibility of having construction proceed with the osprey nest in place and what Contractor restrictions would be needed.	CME	Initiated 07/13/17
2017-07:03	Send the 2015 traffic counts for the project site to the Town of East Haddam.	CME	Completed 07/14/17

Action Item Number = Year-Month: # for Action Item during same month

Submitted by: _____
Tracey A. Brais, P.E., Project Manager
CME Associates, Inc.

Date: _____

Reviewed by: _____
Donald P. Wurst, P.E., Department Manager
CME Associates, Inc.

Date: _____

Tracey A. Brais/tab
cc: Attendees