

Press Release Title:

Notice of Public Informational/Public Scoping Meeting Concerning the I-95 Interchange 74 Improvements at Route 161 and Replacement of Bridge No. 250 in the Town of East Lyme.

Teaser:

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) will conduct a Public Informational/Public Scoping Meeting concerning the proposed improvements on I-95 Interchange 74 at Route 161 and Replacement of Bridge No. 250 on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the East Lyme Middle School Auditorium, 31 Society Road, Niantic, Connecticut. An open forum for individual discussions with Department officials will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a formal presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Body of Message:

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) will conduct a Public Informational/Public Scoping Meeting concerning the proposed improvements on I-95 Interchange 74 at Route 161 and Replacement of Bridge No. 250 on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the East Lyme Middle School Auditorium, 31 Society Road, Niantic, Connecticut. An open forum for individual discussions with Department officials will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a formal presentation at 7:00 p.m.

The project is identified as State Project No. 44-156.

The purpose of the project is to address vehicular safety on I-95 at Interchange 74 and address traffic operational concerns between Interchanges 74 and 75 in East Lyme. In addition, this project will address traffic operational concerns and improve safety for all roadway users (motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists) on Route 161 in the vicinity of the exit 74 interchange ramps. It is also proposed to replace the I-95 bridge over Route 161 due to its poor condition and to accommodate the widening on Route 161.

The proposed improvements on I-95 include full reconstruction and widening to accommodate the revised ramp configurations, auxiliary lanes between exits 74 & 75 in each direction and the full replacement of the bridge over Route 161. As a result of the I-95 widening, the bridge over Pattagansett River will be extended and retaining walls will be constructed. At various locations within the project limits, the proposed improvements on I-95 will accommodate a future project to add a third lane.

The proposed southbound ramps will be realigned to terminate on a new frontage road to form a signalized "T" type intersection. This new frontage road will form a signalized "T" type intersection with a three-lane approach to Route 161 consisting of one left-turn lane and two right-turn lanes. Route 161 northbound at this new intersection will have a four-lane approach consisting of two exclusive left-turn lanes and two through lanes. The southbound Route 161 approach to this intersection will consist of two through lanes and exclusive turn lanes.

The terminus of the northbound I-95 exit 74 ramp will be relocated southerly to form a new signalized intersection with Route 161 and the Burger King Driveway. Vehicles on southbound Route 161 will be accessing I-95 northbound on a new entrance "loop" ramp approximately 500 feet south of its current location. The entrance ramp to I-95 northbound for vehicles on northbound Route 161 will be realigned slightly at its present location.

To address safety and traffic operations on Route 161, improvements include full reconstruction and widening to provide turn lanes, wider shoulders, and sidewalk connectivity within the project limits.

The right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed improvements include total and partial property acquisitions, permanent easements, and temporary easements during construction. The existing non-access lines will be revised to accommodate the new proposed ramps.

Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2021, based on the availability of funding, acquisition of rights of way, and approval of permits. The estimated total construction cost for this project is approximately \$140 million. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 80 percent (80%) Federal Funds and 20 percent (20%) State funds.

The Public Informational/Public Scoping Meeting is being held to afford a full opportunity for public participation and to allow open discussion of any views and comments the community may have concerning this proposed project.

The meeting facility is ADA accessible. Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line at (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Persons having a hearing and/or speech disability may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) and instruct the operator to contact (860) 594-2243. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

If postponement of the public informational/public scoping meeting is required due to inclement weather or other conditions, the meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the original hour and location.

Plans of the proposed project will be on display for public review. Department personnel will be available during the meeting to discuss this project. More detailed information is available at the Department's Office of Engineering, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, Connecticut, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays. Anyone wishing to discuss the project may contact Ms. Susan M. Libatique at (860) 594-3179 or by e-mail at Susan.Libatique@ct.gov. Plans are also available for review at the Town Hall, Department of Planning & Zoning and on the Town's website by May 9, 2019.

Show this content on the Homepage: Yes

Start Date: April 23, 2019

End Date: May 24, 2019

E-Alert: Yes

Specific Date E- Alert to be issued:

Group: CTDOT Current News