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Report of Meeting:

PROJECT TITLE: CTDOT 0118-0191

Sidewalk and Intersection Improvements on Route 99 at I-91 Exit 24

 Client Project. No:
 0118-0191
 MJ Project No:
 19086.04

 Minutes Dated:
 7/3/2025
 Meeting Date:
 6/24/2025

 Meeting Time:
 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

SUBJECT: Project 0118-0191 Public Information Meeting [In-person]

A. ATTENDEES

Name:	E-mail:	Company/Organization:	Telephone:
Melanie Zimyeski	Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov	СТДОТ	860-594-2144
David Mancini	David.Mancini@ct.gov	СТДОТ	
Rep. Kerry Wood		State Representative	
Lisa Marotta	lmarotta@rockyhillct.gov	Mayor of Rocky Hill	830-990-5843
Ray Carpentino	townmanager@rockyhillct.gov	Rocky Hill Town Manager 860-858-7707	
Stephen Sopolak	ssopelak@rockyhillct.gov	Rocky Hill Director of Community Development & Public Works 860258-767	
Alandra Maine	amaine@rockyhillct.gov	Rocky Hill Economic & Business Development Manager	860-384-8624
Natalia Crafa	Mcrafa1929@gmial.com	Resident	860-916-8553
Laurie Boske	lboske@cox.net	Resident	860-685-0760
Mary Frazeur	mefrazeur@gmail.com	Resident	203-623-9445
Tom Carson	Thomasacarson@aol.com	Resident	860-436-9704
Paul Gutala	pgutala@att.net	Resident 860-944-0170	
Michael Joyce	joycemj@cdmsmith.com	Resident/Consultant 860-841-2924	
Kevin Sullivan	Kevinbikewalk@gmail.com	BikeWalk CT	860-690-4576
Alan Baglia	Alanbaglia@gmail.com	Resident	917-749-9395
Ed Chiucarello	edchir@cox.net	Resident	860-986-7579
D. Tamin		Resident	203-980-0936
Caleb Homan	choman@mjinc.com	McFarland Johnson (MJ)	
Wing Wong	wwong@mjinc.com	McFarland Johnson (MJ)	978-393-4004

B. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) held an in-person preliminary design public information meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, for State Project 0181-0191, Sidewalk and Intersection Improvements on Route 99, at I-91 Exit 24.

The project limits extend on Route 99 (Silas Deane Highway) from Town Line Road to Marshall Road in the Town of Rocky Hill. The purpose of this project is to improve pedestrian connectivity and safety in the vicinity of the Interstate 91 Exit 24 interchange in the Town of Rocky Hill. By eliminating slip ramps and extending sidewalks, the project aims to provide continuous, accessible pedestrian facilities while reducing pedestrian exposure to vehicular traffic at high-speed conflict points. Traffic signals at the ramps will be replaced and integrated into the Computerized Traffic Signal System (CTSS) being upgraded under DOT01180187CN. This project addresses the signalized intersections at the I-91/CT 99 ramps that were originally included in project 0118-0187, but were broken out from that project in order to expand the scope of work on the I-91 ramps to include additional pedestrian safety improvements.

This is a state-administered project in which the design phase is 100% state-funded. Design plans are being developed through the state's Task Order consultant design team, McFarland-Johnson, Inc. (MJ). The estimated construction cost is \$5.5 million, with 80% federal funds and 20% state funds.

Transactions and Determinations

- The meeting opened with a welcome from Mayor Lisa Marotta, and Project Engineer, Melanie Zimyeski, then a detailed presentation was made by MJ, which went over existing conditions, purpose and need of the project, proposed improvements, staged construction plan, costs, and schedule.
- A question-and-answer session followed the presentation, and no person spoke in opposition to the project. Concerns from the public included reducing speeds along Route 99, with suggestions for reducing turning radii and narrowing lane widths.
- One bicycle advocate, Kevin Sullivan from BikeWalk CT, requested smaller turning radii for corners and 10-foot travel lanes to reduce speeds on Route 99 and the I-91 ramps.
- One resident asked whether there would be lighting under the I-91 bridge for the sidewalks, and the Consultant responded that yes, lighting will be provided.
- Another resident asked whether riding bicycles on the sidewalk would be allowed, and CTDOT
 responded that this depends on the particular Town and its unique sidewalk ordinances. The
 Town Engineer responded that he was not aware of an ordinance that prohibits riding a bicycle
 on the sidewalk.
- Everyone who spoke was in favor of the project and expressed their enthusiasm for the sidewalk connections.
- Another resident asked whether a design exception would be needed for the narrow shoulder width under the bridge, and the Consultant responded yes, CTDOT is pursuing a design exception for that.
- The Town Engineer thanked the CTDOT for incorporating his request for black mast arms into the design.

- A resident asked if the southbound right-turn lane will be needed into Waterchase Drive. The use
 of the plaza has changed since Porter and Chester moved out, and there is less traffic
 demand. CTDOT responded that we will investigate this further.
- A member of the BikeWalk group in Rocky Hill explained the history of the Town of Wethersfield as one of the oldest Towns in Connecticut and expressed interest in maintaining the character of the Town in the design. He suggested taking a holistic look at the whole corridor and having the Project Team visit the historic Wethersfield area. The Mayor suggested that he attend the meetings for the new Safe Streets for All (SS4A) study, which the town recently started. CTDOT responded that we balance our design to consider all of the modes of travel: vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. There is a balance that is needed for safety as well as getting cars through the area efficiently. CTDOT also explained the difference between exclusive and concurrent pedestrian phasing and how this design has exclusive pedestrian phasing.
- A resident asked that the design consider an elevated truck apron to narrow the turning radius, to force vehicles to make slower turns. The Consultant responded that this would not be ADA compliant for pedestrians.
- A resident commented that the area needs landscaping to assist with traffic calming, beautifying
 the area, and supporting ecosystems through Pollinator landscaping. CTDOT responded that we
 can reach out to our landscape design unit for assistance and consider implementing the
 Pollinator Program, if eligible.
- A resident stated their concerns with speeding in the area. State Representative Kerry Wood agreed with this resident that speed and safety are important issues. She suggested using bumpouts to slow traffic and coordinate with the Town's new SS4A study as much as possible. CTDOT responded that the SS4A study only recently started, but we have already started coordination with the Town. There is at least 1 year before bid on construction, so there is still time to coordinate with the study before Construction starts. Rep. Wood also mentioned that currently, there are police details directing traffic at Raising Kane's in the project area due to a sudden increase in traffic. She mentioned that Raising Kane's, Sally's Pizza, and a new housing development will all increase traffic in the area.
- Another resident voiced concerns about ADA ramps that were installed in another area of Town
 recently that seemed too small and could potentially launch the wheelchair into traffic. The
 Consultant assured the resident that the ADA ramps will be built to standard, with at least a 5foot-wide level area placed behind the curb line.
- Another resident asked how the project was selected. CTDOT explained that this project was a
 breakout project of a traffic signal upgrade project. The Town requested that the project include
 sidewalks in addition to the traffic signal upgrades, so the concept was evaluated by CTDOT's
 Project Development unit to see if it was generally feasible and what the associated costs would
 be to combine this into a new project.
- Overall, the project was well-received and without opposition from the attendees.

C. SUPPLEMENTAL INPUT

Before the formal presentation and Q/A session, a resident asked CTDOT whether adding a
westbound left-turn lane on Marshall Road could be considered for the traffic entering Taco Bell's
driveway. The resident mentioned that since Taco Bell opened in the area, through vehicles tend
to be blocked by these westbound left-turning vehicles on Marshall Road.

• Additional comments were received via email following the meeting. Please refer to the attached correspondence for details.

We believe this report of the meeting reasonably reflects the content and findings of the meeting. Unless notified by writing to the contrary within seven (7) days of receipt of this report, it is presumed that those in attendance agree with this transcript and will serve as a record.

Submitted by:		Date:	7/15/24
	Wing Wong, PE, PTOE		
Approved by:		Date:	7/7/2025
	Melanie 7imveski. PF		



Re: State Project No. 0118-0191

From Alan Baglia <alanbaglia@gmail.com>

Date Tue 3/25/2025 3:09 PM

To Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov>

Cc Mancini, David M. <David.Mancini@ct.gov>; Wing C. Wong <wwong@mjinc.com>

1 attachment (1 MB)

Close City Aldi Walmart Stop & Shop.png;

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Melanie.

Thanks for the courteous reply.

Design vs construction timelines are very well noted!

By the way I took the liberty of the attached and the below.

If these exits get realigned and this area made safer, look at the walkability for Aldi, Walmart and Stop & Shop • • •

It would immediately reduce car trips.

Source https://close.city/

Wishing you the best of success,

Alan

On Mon, Mar 24, 2025 at 3:50 PM Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov > wrote: Dear Mr. Baglia:

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Department to voice your support of State Project No. 0118-0191. We agree that the proposed improvements will benefit the communities of Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

We appreciate you reaching out regarding your question, as well. I would like to offer some clarification regarding the Project schedule.

We are frequently monitoring our schedule to make sure it is as accurate as possible based on the actual completion dates of tasks. Occasionally, there are factors outside of our control that affect the timeline, but we are working to expedite this project as much as possible. We actually just made another modification this past week and we are now estimating the **design** will be completed in **Summer of 2026**, with **construction** anticipated to start in the **Spring of 2027**.

I hope this information is helpful to you. We will be developing a webpage for this project soon and we hope you can visit it for the latest updates regarding the project.

Sincerely,

Melanie Zimyeski

MELANIE S. ZIMYESKI, P.E.

Transportation Engineer 3

Connecticut Department of Transportation
Division of Highway Design / Consultant Design - Major Highways

Phone: 860-594-2144 melanie.zimyeski@ct.gov



From: Alan Baglia <alanbaglia@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 10:29 PM

To: Zimyeski, Melanie S < < <u>Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov</u> >

Subject: State Project No. 0118-0191

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Melanie,

I write as one of the many Rocky Hill residents that support State Project No. 0118-0191, the realignment of the I-91 north and south ramps at Exit 24.

This is very welcome news for the Rocky Hill and Wethersfield communities.

The two exit ramps create very dangerous conditions, and in my view, have hurt businesses and community growth in this vicinity.

I have a question about the timeframe; as there might be an error on the press release.

Should this say start in Fall 20<u>25</u> and complete April 2026? Or completed in April 20<u>27</u>?

The present schedule indicates that the design will be completed in April 2026, with construction anticipated to start in the Fall of 2026

 $\underline{https://portal.ct.gov/dot/ctdot-press-releases/2025/ctdot-developing-plan-realign-the-i91-ramps-at-exit-24-in-rocky-hill}\\$

All best,

Alan Baglia 10 Esther Road Rocky Hill CT

Outlook

I-91 Exit 24 redesign

From Kevin Sullivan <kevinbikewalk@gmail.com>

Date Mon 6/2/2025 4:33 PM

To Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov>

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Melanie -

Derrick Gregor of the Town of Wethersfield gave me your email address.

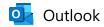
Is there a date set for a public information meeting about the Exit 24 redesign project?

I LOVE what I've heard so far about plans for the redesign, and would like to help get the word out about the meeting.

Let me know when you can.

Best regards,

Kevin Sullivan Bike Walk Wethersfield 860-690-4576



State Project No. 0118-0191

From Ruschau <ruschau@aol.com>

Date Thu 6/12/2025 7:42 PM

To Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov>

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I am in favor of the project to put sidewalks under I91 in Rocky Hill. I've seen lots of people walking there even without walks. This would be safer. I don't care about eliminating the slip lanes as right turns could be handled at the traffic lights.

Thank you.

Marjorie Ruschau Rocky Hill



Re: Question - State Project No.: 0118-0191 Sidewalk and Intersection Improvements on Route 99 at I-91, Exit 24, Rocky Hill, CT

From Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov>

Date Tue 6/24/2025 12:08 PM

To Soroka, Christopher A <christopher.soroka@eversource.com>; DOTProject0118-0191 <DOTProject0118-0191@ct.gov>

Cc Mancini, David M. <David.Mancini@ct.gov>

1 attachment (251 KB)

Rocky Hill CT_CTDOT_Improvements at Rte 99 at I-91_6-12-25.pdf;

Good Afternoon Mr. Soroka,

Thank you for reaching out. We had sent the attached letter to addresses within the neighborhoods adjacent to the project in order to inform them of our Meeting. However, we do not expect any Rights -of-Way impacts at this time. We will be holding a Utility Coordination meeting in the next few months with all of the utility companies (including Eversource) within the State ROW on Rt 99 and the I-91 ramps in order to ensure there is minimal disruption to any utilities within the ROW.

Thank you for sharing your contact info, this is very helpful! We (or someone from the Utilities unit) will reach out as the design progresses.

Thank you, Melanie

MELANIE S. ZIMYESKI, P.E.

Transportation Engineer 3

Connecticut Department of Transportation
Division of Highway Design / Consultant Design - Major Highways

Phone: 860-594-2144 melanie.zimyeski@ct.gov



From: Soroka, Christopher A <christopher.soroka@eversource.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 2:08 PM

To: DOTProject0118-0191 <DOTProject0118-0191@ct.gov>; Zimyeski, Melanie S <Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov> **Subject:** Question - State Project No.: 0118-0191 Sidewalk and Intersection Improvements on Route 99 at I-91,

Exit 24, Rocky Hill, CT

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Are there any aspects of Project 0118-191 Rocky Hill (attached) that will impact or be located within the existing, nearby Eversource Right of Way easements and/or located on the nearby Eversource fee owned properties? Any work proposed within the existing Eversource easement areas or located on the Eversource fee owned properties will have to be reviewed by respective internal stakeholders at Eversource.

Any questions, my contact information is provided below. Thank you.

Christopher A. Soroka | Supervisor – T&D Right of Way (CT & WMA)

EVERS ■URCE | 107 Selden Street | Berlin, CT 06037

860.706.3123 Mobile, 860.665.5493 Office

christopher.soroka@eversource.com

As a courtesy, Eversource has provided the accompanying documentation in response to your request. The documentation provided may not represent a current depiction of all the land transactions applicable to the subject property. Eversource strongly recommends that you rely on your own research to identify applicable title records. Eversource makes no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular use. Eversource assumes no liability whatsoever associated with the use or misuse of this information.

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FW: Exit 24 diagrams

From Mancini, David M. <David.Mancini@ct.gov>

Date Wed 6/25/2025 11:57 AM

To Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov>

1 attachment (23 MB)

0118-0191 Rocky Hill Sidewalk Improvements_roll plan.pdf;

Sorry. meant to include you on this reply

From: Mancini, David M.

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:50 AM

To: Kevin Sullivan <kevinbikewalk@gmail.com>; derrick.gregor <derrick.gregor@wethersfieldct.gov>

Subject: RE: Exit 24 diagrams

Hi Kevin

Thank you for attending last night and for your comments and suggestions. I have attached digital versions of the display plans we used last night. Keep in mind that these are preliminary and may get revised slightly based on comments and refinements needed as we proceed with finalizing the design. The files are large so I will send in 2 separate emails.

Thank you,

Dave

From: Kevin Sullivan < kevinbikewalk@gmail.com >

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:59 AM

To: derrick.gregor < <u>derrick.gregor@wethersfieldct.gov</u>>

Cc: Mancini, David M. < David.Mancini@ct.gov>

Subject: Exit 24 diagrams

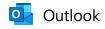
EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Derrick -

I went to the DOT public meeting yesterday regarding the Exit 24 realignment. I asked Program Chief Mancini if digital versions of the design could be shared. He said I could get them from the Town.

If you could send them when you get a chance, I'd appreciate that! See you Thursday at the WBPAC mtg.

Best, Kevin 860-690-4576



Re: Exit 24 Realinement

From Kevin Sullivan <kevinbikewalk@gmail.com>

Date Wed 7/2/2025 4:27 PM

To Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov>

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Thank you for confirming, Melanie!

On Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 3:45 PM Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov> wrote:

Hi Kevin.

Yes, the sidewalks are 5 ft across for the entire project. The 2 ft is the shoulder distance.

Thank you, Melanie

MELANIE S. ZIMYESKI, P.E.

Transportation Engineer 3

Connecticut Department of Transportation
Division of Highway Design / Consultant Design - Major Highways

Phone: 860-594-2144 melanie.zimyeski@ct.gov



From: Kevin Sullivan < kevinbikewalk@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 2:54 PM

To: Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov >

Subject: Exit 24 Realinement

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi David

A follow-up question for you about the exit 24 realignment:

The way I read the project cross sections, the sidewalks are planned to be 5 feet wide across all of the project. During the presentation, I thought I heard the presenter say the sidewalks would be 2 feet wide under the bridge.

Which is correct?

Thanks! Kevin Sullivan, Blke Walk Wethersfield 860-690-4576



DOT Project 0118-0191: I-91 exit 24 ramp realignment and sidewalks installation

From Kevin Sullivan <kevinbikewalk@gmail.com>

Date Sat 7/5/2025 7:52 PM

To DOTProject0118-0191 < DOTProject0118-0191@ct.gov>

Cc Zimyeski, Melanie S < Melanie.Zimyeski@ct.gov>; Mancini, David M. < David.Mancini@ct.gov>

1 attachment (135 KB)

I-91 Exit 24 Realinement and Sidewalk Project No. No. 0118-0191 Bike Walk Wethersfield Recomendations 7-2-2025.pdf;

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Melanie and David -

It was great to meet you both at the public information meeting June 24th. Thank you for holding that meeting!

I have attached some comments for your consideration. Feel free to call me if you have any questions. I hope you will consider at least some of the ideas and are able to get approval to make those changes.

FYI, I shared the letter on my Facebook page, and in an email to folks on the BIke Walk Wethersfield email list.

Overall, I am very happy about the planned ramp area improvements. I just think that the details of traffic calming are important to the success of the project.

Best regards, Kevin Sullivan, Bike Walk Wethersfield 79 Wright Rd, Wethersfield, CT 06109 860-690-4576

Bike Walk Wethersfield

Supporting safe and healthy bicycling and pedestrian activities in our community!



July 5, 2025

Melanie S. Zimyeski, P.E. Transportation Engineer 3 Division of Highway Design / Consultant Design - Major Highways Connecticut Department of Transportation 2800 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06131

Transmitted via Electronic Mail to DOTProject0118-0191@ct.gov

RE: DOT Project 0118-0191

I-91, Exit 24 Ramp Realignment and Sidewalks Project Safety Enhancements for the Preliminary Design

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to commend CT DOT for pursuing realignment of the I-91 Exit 24 highway ramps in Rocky Hill! Removing the "slip ramps" and adding sidewalks will be major safety improvements for all users. I attended DOT's public information meeting June 24th and thank you for holding that meeting.

I am writing as an advocate for better communities through safer bicycling and walking. I am a member of Bike Walk Wethersfield, and a member of the Wethersfield Bicycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I also walk daily and ride my bicycle about 2,000 miles a year, including through the project area to shopping and family in Rocky Hill, so I am very familiar with the dangers of highway ramp areas.

The project area is walked and biked by many, as confirmed by well-worn paths along both sides of the road. I've even seen senior citizens crossing the ramps with a walker! Highway ramp areas induce high traffic speeds and are very dangerous for everyone, especially vulnerable users. For these reasons, I strongly recommend that DOT add some or all of the following traffic calming measures to further improve safety for all in the project area:

- Add curb extensions or "sharpen" the corners of ramp intersections. The large, rounded corners planned increase pedestrian crossing distances and induce drivers to speed and ignore red lights, walk signals and right turn on red after stop. Corners should be the same as other intersections in the project, like Marshall Road and Waterchase Drive.
- Remove the right turn only lanes for the 2 highway entrance ramps and for Waterchase Drive. Such lanes induce speeding and not stopping, and do little to improve traffic flow.
- Create 10-foot wide vehicle travel and turn lanes on Silas Deane Highway.
- Install 10-foot wide lanes on exit ramps to slow traffic exiting I-91.

- Build rumble strips on exit AND entrance ramps to slow exiting traffic and increase driver attention about wrong way driving on the entrance ramps.
- Install raised crosswalks at the end of entrance and exit ramps to protect sidewalk users.
- Expanding the sidewalks to 10 feet wide where space allows, to create a multi-use path in lieu of not having enough space for bikeways.
- Remove the center turn only lane under the exit 24 bridge so the travel lanes can be shifted toward the center. This will create more space for wider sidewalks under the bridge and not impact the bridge piers.

I fully support DOT's design concepts of removing the slip ramps and adding sidewalks. I hope DOT will add more traffic calming measures to further enhance safety. I believe all of the above recommendations are within the existing right of way and do not affect existing structures, like the bridge pier. Several can be added without additional cost.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Kevin T. Sullivan 79 Wright Rd., Wethersfield 860-690-4576