



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

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March 12, 2021

Mr. Joseph Giulietti
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

Subject: Re-Evaluation of the Walk Bridge Replacement Project Environmental Assessment – Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Commissioner Giulietti:

Thank you for submitting the *Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation Form for the Walk Bridge Replacement Project* dated February 4, 2021 (referred to hereinafter as the Re-Evaluation). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has completed our review of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) proposed changes to the Project and its request for a re-evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued on July 17, 2017 for the Walk Bridge Replacement Project. FTA completed a previous NEPA re-evaluation documented in a determination letter dated September 19, 2019. As part of the Project, CTDOT now proposes to make changes described and detailed more fully in the February 4, 2021 Re-Evaluation to the following elements of the Project:

- Abandonment and replacement of the Fort Point Street/Railroad Corridor stone retaining wall;
- Completion of Marshall Street Pedestrian Improvements to provide a pedestrian detour route compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- Fabrication of the replacement bridge lift spans at a staging and storage yard at Manresa Island instead of fabricating them at parcels located on Water Street;
- Changes to the ferry and research vessel dock relocations including replacing the existing docks of the Sheffield Island Ferry and Maritime Aquarium with a single new dock to remain in place at the completion of construction; and,
- Refinements to the plans for using waste stockpile areas and reuse stockpile areas.

The Re-Evaluation was submitted to provide information on potential impacts of the proposed changes to determine if the changed Project will result in significant environmental impacts and to

provide information requested by the FTA. CTDOT's Re-Evaluation concluded that the proposed changes to design and construction are consistent with the approved FONSI and would not result in any significant environmental impacts, that the approved environmental determination remains valid and recommended no supplemental environmental review be required.

Based on FTA's independent review of the Re-Evaluation, attached hereto, FTA concurs that the proposed changes to the Project, as described in the Re-Evaluation, will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The completed Re-Evaluation document satisfies the NEPA requirements as outlined in 23 C.F.R. § 771.129 and no supplemental environmental review is necessary for the proposed changes. FTA affirms that the July 17, 2017 FONSI associated with Walk Bridge Replacement Project remains valid.

CTDOT is reminded that changes made to bring facilities into compliance with the ADA cannot be reversed once the Project is completed. Going forward, if any further changes to the Project are proposed, CTDOT must notify the FTA in writing prior to implementing the change so that FTA can determine whether additional environmental studies or analysis will be necessary before the changes are approved. Should you have any questions concerning this Project, please contact Leah Sirmin at 617-494-2459 or leah.sirmin@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Peter Butler
Regional Administrator

Enclosures: CTDOT's *Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation form for the Walk Bridge Replacement Project*, dated February 4, 2021
FTA Memorandum, dated March 12, 2021

cc: Bartholomew Sweeney, CTDOT
Kevin Carifa, CTDOT