



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

REGION I
Connecticut, Maine,
Massachusetts,
New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, Vermont

Volpe Center
55 Broadway Suite 920
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093
617-494-2055
617-494-2865 (fax)

September 19, 2019

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 Mr. Giulietti:

Thank you for submitting the *Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation Form for the Walk Bridge Replacement Project* received on July 12, 2019 (referred to as the Re-Evaluation). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has completed our review of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) request for a re-evaluation of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued on July 17, 2017 for the Walk Bridge Replacement Project. As part of the Project, CTDOT proposes to make changes to the following elements of the Project:

- Vertical and horizontal clearances of the Walk Bridge Replacement have been refined since conceptual design;
- Alignment and location of the Fort Point Street Bridge replacement;
- The routing of the traction power and communication and signals power has been refined;
- New retaining walls will be required within the right-of-way (ROW) on both sides of the railroad;
- Refinements for ferry and research vessel dock relocations;
- Storm water run-off and water discharged due to dredging will be pretreated to maximum extent;
- Revised property acquisitions.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Peter Butler
Regional Administrator

Enclosures: CTDOT's *Environmental Re-Evaluation Consultation form for the Walk Bridge Replacement Project*, dated July 12, 2019

FTA Memorandum, dated September 19, 2019

cc: Jim Fallon, CTDOT
Kim Lesay, CTDOT