



March 29, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE (1-188)

**Subject: PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF THE WALK BRIDGE
(NO. 04288R) AKA THE NEW HAVEN LINE IN THE CITY OF NORWALK,
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT**

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, First Coast Guard District, has received application materials including waterway data materials from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) for a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Bridge Permit for approval of the location and plans for replacement of a movable railroad bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Norwalk River, approximately 0.1 miles above the mouth of the waterway.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant proposes to replace the structurally deficient Walk Bridge, a four-track movable railroad bridge consisting of a 200-foot swing-span with two-fixed approach spans with a four-track vertical lift four-span railroad bridge with fixed approach spans side-by-side. The northernmost span will carry tracks 1 and 3 and the southernmost structure will carry tracks 2 and 4. The bridge is utilized by Metro-North Railroad (Metro-North), Amtrak, and two freight carriers. The proposed bridge will measure 679.83 feet long between abutments and 73.58 feet wide out-to-out. The existing pier masonry will be removed in its entirety. The existing foundation at the west abutment and Pier 1 will be removed two feet below the ground surface. The existing bridge will alternate operation of tracks, with a minimum of two tracks to remain in service for the duration of construction of the replacement bridge. To minimize navigational outages to the extent possible, pier removal and construction will be performed in segments, with one channel remaining open for marine traffic. In-water piers (piers 2 and 3 and the pivot pier) will be removed to an elevation of -20.0 feet (NAV88) (-16.02 feet below mean low low water (MLLW)) in accordance with previous consultations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

	Existing (movable)	Proposed (movable)
Horizontal (normal to axis of the channel)	54.75 west/58 feet east	170 feet
Vertical (above MHW) (NAVD88)	203 feet (open)	60.78 feet (open)
	16.5 feet (closed)	25.78 feet (closed)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the lead federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. section 4321 et seq. (as amended), and other applicable laws. The FTA is acting on behalf of the USCG for all environmental control laws. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on July 17, 2017 pursuant to NEPA. FTA's re-evaluation of the FONSI was issued on September 19, 2019 associated with project refinement designs. A second FTA re-evaluation was issued on March 12, 2021 associated with additional refinements in design and construction means and methods; followed by a third verification by FTA granted on June 15, 2021 and amended on June 17, 2021. The (Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) State of Good Repair construction grant for the project, a FRA NEPA FONSI was granted. The USCG tentatively has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact for purposes of NEPA and plans to adopt the FTA FONSI and issue a FONSI for this project subject to information received from public comments. Documents are available for review by accessing the CTDOT website at: [Walk Bridge Program | Projects - Replacement of the Walk Bridge Over the Norwalk River \(walkbridgect.com\)](http://walkbridgect.com).

The proposed project is considered an encroachment, but not a significant encroachment on the 100-year floodplain. The proposed superstructure will clear the 100-year flood elevation of +10 feet and 12 feet NAVD88 at the northern and southern bridge faces, respectively. The low steel elevation of the main span is 29.13 feet NAVD88. The eastern approach span has a low steel elevation of 22.5 feet NAVD88. The lowest low steel of the bridge is 14.46 feet above the 100-year floodplain (elevation 8.04 NAV88) and approximately 10.5 feet above the published FEMA base flood elevation.

A Water Quality Certificate from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) in accordance with section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, certifying that reasonable assurance that the action will be conducted in compliance with water quality standards of the State of Connecticut is pending. The applicant has certified that the project is consistent with the State of Connecticut's coastal zone management program. CTDEEP concurrence with this certification is pending.

The decision as to whether to grant approval of the location and plans for the proposed action rests primarily upon the effect it has on navigation.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting. Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impacts to navigation. Boat owners in the project vicinity are requested to provide information about their vessels including type of vessel, length overall, draft, beam, and height from the waterline to the highest fixed point and to appurtenant structures (e.g., tuna towers, flying bridges, fixed antennas and radar units). Due to the proposed decrease in vertical clearance from 200 feet to 60.65 (open position) feet this proposal would limit vessel access for vessels

March 29, 2022

requiring greater clearance.

We will forward comments of an environmental nature such as those regarding wildlife refuges, water-fowl refuges, public parks, historic sites, wetlands, floodplain issues, air, water quality, etc. to the Federal Transit Administration for appropriate handling. Comments will be received by email for the U. S. Coast Guard Commander, First Coast Guard District (dpb). Bridge Management Division Specialist Officer: donna.d.leoce@uscg.mil, through April 30, 2022.

It is requested that this information be brought to the attention of any person having an interest in this who may not have received a copy of this public notice announcement.

Map of location and plans attached.

FOR THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:

//s//

D. A. Fisher
Supervisory Bridge Management Program
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

This is a web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version.