



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

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June 15, 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:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has completed our review of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) proposed changes to the Walk Bridge Replacement Project, which CTDOT described and submitted via email dated May 24, 2021. FTA discussed these minor project changes and CTDOT's 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 with Kevin Carifa of your staff on June 8, 2021. FTA completed two previous NEPA re-evaluations for the Project documented in determination letters dated September 19, 2019 and March 12, 2021 respectively. As part of the Project, CTDOT now proposes to make changes to the following elements of the Project:

- Changed acquisition approach for 68 Water Street parcel from a partial acquisition to a full acquisition of the entire parcel; and,
- Additional use of a waste stockpile area and reuse stockpile area (WSA/RSA) at the I-95 Westbound on-ramp at Exit 18 in Westport.

Based on FTA's independent review of the project changes and potential effects to the human and natural environment, FTA concurs that the proposed changes to the Project described in CTDOT's May 24, 2021 e-mail will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The information provided 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 all real estate activities must be conducted in conformance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4655 and 49 C.F.R. Part 24, the implementing regulations. 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

cc: Kevin Carifa, CTDOT