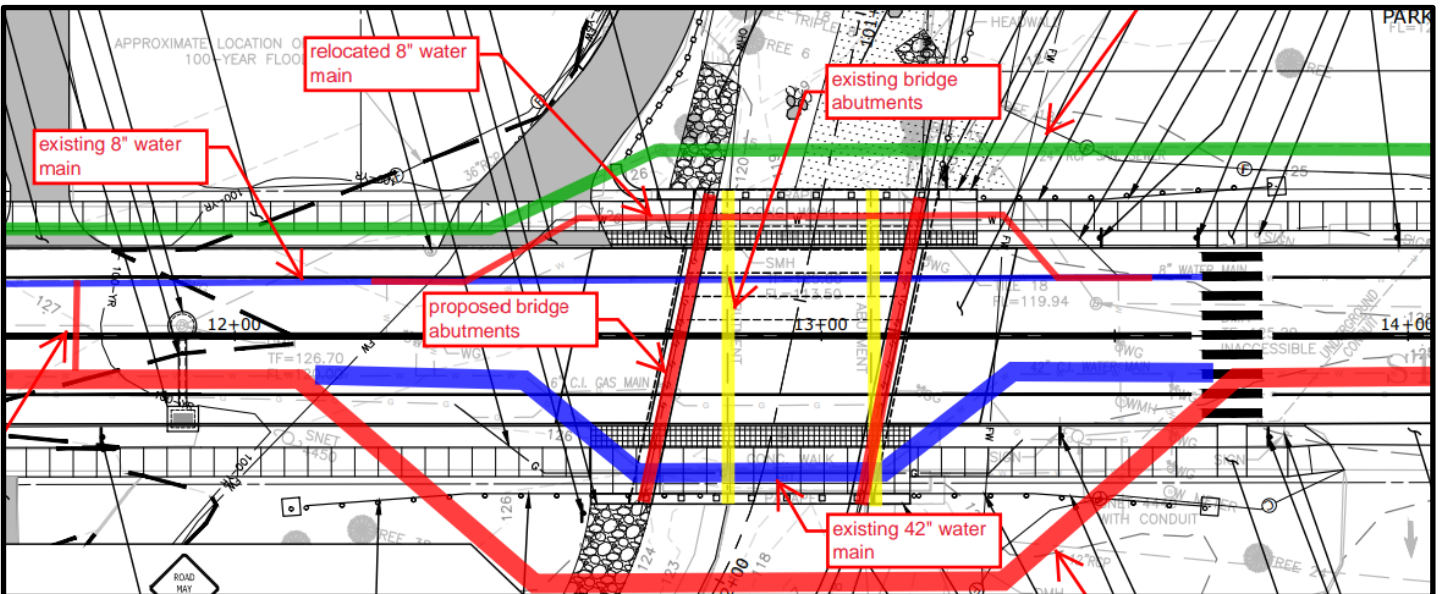


To: Transportation Committee
From: Sotoria Montanari, LOTCIP Program Manager
Date: December 8, 2023
Cc: Duane J. Martin, P.E., Director of Community Development, West Hartford
Rob Aloise, CRCOG Director of Transportation Planning
Cara Radzins, CRCOG Deputy Director of Transportation Planning
Subject LOTCIP Funding Increase: West Hartford Fern Street Bridge Replacement (L155-0003)

A Transportation Committee meeting will take place at 12 noon on Monday, December 18, 2023. At the meeting, we will be discussing and acting on the following:

West Hartford Fern Street Bridge Replacement Funding Increase Request (L155-0003)

The Town of West Hartford is requesting a LOTCIP funding increase of \$3,000,000 from \$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000 for the Fern Street Bridge Replacement Project, with a Town cost share of \$1,434,500, making the total project cost \$7,434,500 (engineer’s estimate). The amount requested is \$500,000 over the Committee approved CRCOG LOTCIP program funding cap, so the Town is requesting an exception to the funding cap. ***To help mitigate the requested funding increase, the Town has agreed to opt out of the 2024 LOTCIP Project Solicitation pending Committee approval of the funding increase. If approved, the funding increase will serve as a cap for this project, and it will not be eligible for additional LOTCIP funding increases in the future.***



The project was originally approved under the 2017 Bridge Phase 1 Solicitation and is currently in its Final Design phase. The requested funding increase is due to the unanticipated MDC requirement to replace and relocate a 42-inch water main that is currently located under the bridge abutments, amounting to \$1,720,000. The Town of West Hartford and its consultant, SLR, conducted utility coordination meetings prior to the preliminary design phase. At that time, MDC indicated the water main could remain its current location under the bridge abutments while the bridge is being replaced. During Final Design, however, MDC notified the Town that the water main needed to be relocated outside the bridge’s footprint due to the age of the water main (1917) and risks involved during construction.

The MDC provided the Town with the following preferred design for their water main's relocation:

- **MDC Requested Alternative** included the water main replacement with new valves and a polyethylene encasement (276-foot restraint length) for \$2,250,000 (\$3,157,810.05 with increase to percentage based estimating items)

The Town and CRCOG staff met and determined that some of the MDC requested design elements included betterments that may not be appropriate to fund utilizing LOTCIP. As a cost saving measure, the Town developed an alternative design below which has been the selected alternative:

- **Selected Alternative** included the water main replacement with new valves and no polyethylene encasement (95-foot restraint length) for \$1,720,000 (\$2,415,520.34 with increase to percentage based estimating items)

The selected alternative reduces the required length of replacement pipe by eliminating the polyethylene encasement. Providing new valves near the bridge is considered essential, since the location of adjacent valves are approximately a mile apart.

Additional Background Information:

- Fern Street Roadway has an ADT of 6,800.
- There is no feasible detour for this roadway.
- CTDOT required the Town of West Hartford to reduce the load rating to nine tons unless the Town implemented a lane shift on the bridge, which would allow the Town to reduce the load rating to 17 tons. The Town opted for the lane shift.

The additional unit costs combined with increases to percentage based estimating items (including contingencies and incidentals) resulted in the total estimated cost increase of \$3,000,000.

Staff recommends Committee approval of an additional \$3,000,000 of LOTCIP funding for the West Hartford Fern Street Bridge Replacement Project (L155-0003), due to the unanticipated MDC requirement of a 42-inch water main relocation and replacement, increasing the funding approval from \$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000 and allowing an exception to the current \$5,500,000 LOTCIP funding cap. As mitigating measures, the Town will opt out of the 2024 LOTCIP Project Solicitation and provide a municipal cost share of \$1,434,500. The funding increase will serve as a cap for this project, making it ineligible for additional LOTCIP funding increases in the future.