



# Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023  
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Place: Branford Fire Headquarters  
45 North Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Re: CTDOT Project No.: 0175-1608  
Route 146 Corridor Management Plan  
**Corridor Working Group Meeting #1**

Project No.: 42441.08

## ATTENDEES:

### Corridor Working Group Members in Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Patrick Zapatka	CTDOT
David Elder	CTDOT
Rob Bell	CTDOT
Bill Sigmund	CT DEEP
Michael Ciacciarella	Town of Guilford Assistant Town Engineer (Alternate for Janice Plaziak)
Allan Dodge	CTDOT
Emin Basic	CTDOT (Alternate for Michael Calabrese)
Laura Francis	SCRCOG
Barbara Ricozzi	Branford Resident
Catherine Labadia	CT SHPO
John Hoefflerle	Town of Branford Town Engineer
David Rood	Branford Historical Society (Alternate for Matt Radulski)

### Corridor Working Group Members Not Able to Attend:

Name	Affiliation
Bob Yaro	Guilford Resident
Shirley Girioni	Guilford Preservation Alliance
Sandy Fry	CT Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board

### Other Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Joe Balskus	VHB
Daniel Amstutz (remote)	VHB
Jennifer Acquino	Town of Branford
Kevin Ortiz	Town of Branford Engineering

NOTES:

- › Rob Bell opened the meeting, thanked all attendees for coming, and went over the Route 146 Corridor Management Plan Project. A Corridor Management Plan (CMP) is different from a Corridor Study; it lays out the context and vision for preserving the corridor and guides how to approach transportation projects that may impact the corridor, but is not intended to create projects like a Corridor Study. The goal is to have a safe and accessible corridor for all users and to preserve and enhance the intrinsic qualities of the corridor that people have identified as unique and special.
  - Bell also noted that the Corridor Working Group is meant to act as a team to work together and provide feedback on the project as it advances. He provided some basic ground rules for working together and being respectful of one another.
- › Joe Balskus went over a presentation for the group which covered the project limits, background on Route 146 and the previous CMP from 1996 and more recent Corridor Study effort, the goals of this new CMP process, the overall outline of the process, project schedule, public outreach, roles/responsibilities of the working group, next steps, and showed the draft Route 146 CMP website. (Presentation slides attached)
- › Corridor Working Group (CWG) members asked questions at the end of the presentation.
- › A question was asked if the CMP will set up for future funding programs.
  - The plan is not likely to get to specific projects like a corridor study does, but it should help for applications. The plan itself is not likely to lead to funding – it is a more foundational document. It may steer the approach to projects in the design process such as exceptions to certain standards. It was noted that standards will be changing soon with the release of a new Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) in the near future.
- › A question was asked about how the corridor field walks will work and if there be more.
  - The CWG will help guide the locations of the corridor field walks and what will be reviewed as part of them. Different locations can be looked at for different reasons.
- › CWG members discussed a variety of topics.
  - Community engagement from outside towns was discussed. Experience with corridor studies shows that sometimes there is limited public involvement, though it depends on the subject, the size of the corridor, what kind of corridor it is, etc. People from other communities can certainly participate in public involvement meetings, but this project does not touch any other communities outside Branford and Guilford, and it is a roadway unique to the area. The project team will work to communicate the project to other communities to see if they are interested, or if there is a specific reason they should be included.
  - It was noted that CTDOT wants to be on same page as municipalities on issues of projects that come up and design standards so projects can move smoothly through the process.
  - Current active projects along Route 146 were discussed. They include new sidewalks on Boston Street in Guilford, the replacement of the Sybil Creek Bridge in Branford, the seawall replacement at Limewood Beach, and some ongoing gas work that will require milling and paving the road surface. CTDOT noted that there are plans to repave Route 146 in Guilford next year. Prioritization for pavement maintenance projects was explained, and what is possible during this maintenance. No geometric changes can be made, but Towns can request new pavement markings. Depending on request, the Town may need to agree to maintaining the pavement markings. It may be possible to include some

Complete Streets enhancements such as reducing lane widths to increase paved shoulder size or shared-lane markings (sharrows). CTDOT Planning also reviews plans for better bike facilities, Road Safety Audits (RSAs), and other documents to make recommendations for changes that can be made during maintenance activities.

- The recent RSA in Branford was discussed, along with proposed improvements and how recommendations were created to take into account scenic roadway issues. Project prioritization was discussed; Branford and Guilford both look at safety and connectivity upgrades for new projects.
- Part of the Route 146 corridor is a state designated bike route (in Branford). The process for designating the bike routes previously and more recently was discussed, from a more stakeholder-based map of routes to usage of greater data inputs to identify the most comfortable cycling routes. There are more state trails constructed now as well. The new CTDOT Commissioner is very interested in Complete Streets. It was noted that Route 146 has lots of cyclists and generally drivers are more respectful because of that; worse experience to bicycle on Route 1.
- Flooding issues and emergency management/evacuation routes were discussed. Evacuation routes are not part of this project scope, though they were included in the previous Corridor Study scope. Sea level rise of 20" is projected along the Connecticut coastline by 2050. There needs to be serious discussion about tolerance for flooding and what options would be considered for mitigating it.
- Context-sensitive design and options will be discussed in more detail later this year, and it is expected this will be a significant part of the project.
- Potential stakeholders for targeted interviews were discussed. They included the Nature Conservancy and the Guilford Safe Streets Task Force, potentially neighborhood associations. A Google Document will be sent around for CWG members to add their feedback on potential stakeholders.
- Next steps include:
  - Sending out link to website to the CWG for them to comment on;
  - Summary of meeting;
  - Ask CWG about timing of the meetings so that all members are able to attend.
- Upcoming schedule includes the following:
  - The next CWG meeting is planned for early March and will go over updates to the existing conditions of the corridor;
  - A public meeting is expected later in March, after the second CWG meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.