

US Army Corps of Engineers * New England District

Public Notice

696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 In Reply Refer to: Ms. Christina Comeau <u>nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil</u> Programs and Project Management Division

NOTICE OF AVAILABLITY OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ALTERATION OF A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408: REPLACEMENT OF WALK BRIDGE, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) has evaluated plans under 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) submitted by the requestor, Connecticut Department of Transportation, to allow for the replacement of the structurally deficient Walk Bridge, a railroad bridge that crosses over the Norwalk River and the Norwalk Harbor Federal Navigation Project (FNP), a federally authorized USACE civil works project in Norwalk, Connecticut. The existing railroad bridge will be replaced with a new vertical lift bridge to continue to provide safe transit along the New Haven Line/Northeast Corridor.

This Notice is being issued pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408, USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the USACE Procedures for Implementing NEPA (33 CFR 230). Section 408 allows USACE to grant permission for the alteration, occupation, or use of a USACE civil works project if it is determined that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the Federal project. A decision on a Section 408 request is a Federal action, and therefore subject to NEPA and other environmental compliance requirements. The proposed alterations specific to this S408 review and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) of the bridge replacement include the installation of sheet pile marine enclosures and turbidity curtains; installation and removal of a temporary fender system and timber work trestles; temporary staging of a hopper barge, support barges, and crane platforms; removal of two submarine cables from within the bridge footprint; installation and removal of temporary slide rail assemblies; installation of pier mounted fender systems; and permanent replacement of the bridge deck. USACE has determined that the proposed alterations in support of the bridge replacement will not adversely affect environmental resources in the affected area of the Norwalk Harbor FNP and will not have a significant impact on the human environment. To request more information or obtain a copy of the FONSI, contact: Ms. Christina Comeau, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 318-8705, christina.m.comeau@usace.army.mil.