

## Meeting Report

Stevenson Dam Bridge Realignment  
Advisory Committee of Elected Officials  
June 19, 2019  
Oxford Town Hall

**In attendance:** Mark Nielsen, NVCOG; Christian Meyer, NVCOG; Matt Fulda, MetroCOG; Scott Flaherty, Oxford Selectman; Kurt Miller, Seymour First Selectman; Richard Dziekan, Mayor of Derby; George Temple, Oxford First Selectman; Ken Kellogg, Monroe First Selectman; Robert Kulacz, MetroCOG; Devin Clarke, MetroCOG; Meghan Sloan, MetroCOG; Patrick Carleton, MetroCOG; John Downs, Oxford Resident; Kayla Briere, Congresswoman Hayes' Office; Kristyn Rosa, Oxford; Rick Dunne, NVCOG.

Meeting Opened by First Selectman George Temple at 1:49 PM, June 19, 2019

First Selectman Temple gave a short background to the project, including a brief history of the previous design project for a crossing upriver of the Stevenson Dam. First Selectman Temple wants to ensure this time around there is better coordination with neighboring communities by CTDOT along the Route 34 Corridor.

Christian Meyer introduced the project including purpose and need and status of the project with regard to its inclusion in the GBVMPO TIP and the CNVMPO TIP. The project is in the preliminary design stage, and neither MPO has approved funding for future phases.

Mark Nielsen, offered further details on the history of the project and past alternatives, airing concerns about how the CTDOT handled outreach in the lead up to the 2017 proposed TIP Amendments, adding that the CTDOT project schedule still provides time for input.

Matt Fulda outlined homeland security concerns. Few highways remain on dams nationwide.

Discussion ensued on the topic and the group broadly accepted the concerns outlined by the CTDOT. However, other concerns were brought up, including Bald Eagle habitat, truck and traffic patterns that may be altered by the improved structure, and increased traffic volumes along the corridor including through downtown Derby. Therefore, in the short-term, more information was requested regarding current and anticipated effects on car and truck traffic volumes. All agreed that the design of the bridge should be consistent with the current roadway design along the rest of Route 34.

Rick Dunne shared legal history of the crossing at the dam. He noted that the CTDOT was willing to pursue a legal opinion on the 1919/1920 agreements from the Connecticut attorney general.

First Selectman Kurt Miller asked what would be the result if the MPOs did not approve further phases of the project. Staff informed the committee that the approval of the MPOs was

necessary to allow federal dollars to be spent on further design and construction work. If the additional phases were not added to the TIPs, the new crossing would need to be funded with state dollars or remain in place, perhaps at a reduced level of service.

Committee members again reiterated the need to find a solution that works for everyone to maintain the crossing and hoped the committee could serve as a platform for inter-municipal discussion and coordination. All parties agreed that no further phases should be approved until a legal opinion from the attorney general was obtained and local officials had had a chance to review proposed design concepts. A next meeting for the Committee will be planned once more information is available from CTDOT.

First Selectman Miller asked about the impact of weight restrictions on emergency vehicles or plow trucks and what effect it might have on mutual aid. Staff agreed to track down necessary information from CTDOT.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM